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their stars back

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Ivry panel cautions four officers

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The Ivry Commission investigating the February 4 helicopter collision, in which 73 soldiers and officers were killed, has sent out letters of caution to three IAF officers and an officer in the Northern Command. The move paves the way for recommendations to be made against them.

The wording of the invitation to the four to study the investigation "out of the possibility their good names may be harmed" is a military euphemism for cautioning them that their testimony could be used against them. The four have hired lawyers, who are reportedly seeking a delay in the commission's discussions in order to prepare a possible defense.

The four officers named are Brig.-Gen. G. the commander of Tel Nof Air Base, where the CH-53 helicopter squadrons are based, Yasur squadron commander Lt.-Col. E. his deputy, Maj. Y. and Maj. A. operations officer for the Galilee Panhandle brigade.

According to the commission's interim report, Maj. Y. briefed the pilots of the fatal flight to fly in formation, but did not appoint a formation leader. Maj. A. was cited with faults in making sure the soldiers who boarded the helicopters were properly logged. The commission stressed that the cautions in no way signify direct responsibility for the collision.

According to Channel 1 television, the four officers are allowed to examine all files in the investigation and question any witness. The four have been invited to commission hearings in another six days.

The commission of inquiry, headed by former air force chief David Ivry, was originally given 45 days to present its final findings and had been expected to do so within the next two weeks. But the letters of caution open the door to further delay.

PM, Mubarak meet in Cairo

News agencies

CAIRO - The cabinet is to meet this afternoon in a special session to decide on the extent of the first further withdrawal from the territories since the Hebron pullout in January. According to the Hebron agreement, the IDF must make the first of three more redeployments in Judea and Samaria by tomorrow.

PA offices served
closure notices, Page 2

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to convene his inner cabinet this morning to prepare a withdrawal proposal. Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak concluded two hours of talks on the peace process yesterday by disagreeing about whether the Oslo Accords bar the building of Jewish housing in Jerusalem.

Both Mubarak and Netanyahu urged moving forward with peace talks, but they appeared tense and sometimes angry as questions arose at a news conference about Israel's plans for 6,500 housing units on Har Homa, in southern Jerusalem.

Netanyahu denied the housing project is prohibited by the Oslo Accords and said he confirmed this with the Israeli negotiators who helped frame the agreement.

"Oslo is very clear," he said. "It doesn't deal at all with the question of Jerusalem. In fact it makes clear that any actions regarding changing the status involve, as Oslo terms it, the West Bank and Gaza. It specifically excludes Jerusalem."

Mubarak, however, pointed out



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak meet in Cairo yesterday.

(Reuters)

that the agreement's Article 5 states that Jerusalem's future is to be negotiated in talks for a final peace and argued that moving more Jews into east Jerusalem now would prejudice those negotiations.

"My feeling is that it [the housing project] will lead to problems in the future when they start on the final status of Jerusalem," he told reporters.

Mubarak said he would further discuss the Har Homa issue next week in a meeting in Washington with President Bill Clinton, who also has criticized the plan.

At the news conference with Netanyahu, Mubarak was also asked about the case of alleged Israeli spy Azzam Azzam. Mubarak

said the matter is out of his hands now that it has entered the judicial system.

Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Azzam, a 35-year-old chief mechanic who was working at an Israeli-owned factory in Egypt, is innocent and that the case would be at the top of his agenda in talks with Mubarak.

Asked if he would agree to release the Israeli, Mubarak said: "This case is before the court. We have no authority to exclude it from the court until it comes to an end. Before that we are not authorized, even our constitution doesn't give us the right to do anything or to release him."

Mubarak again said that Israeli

publicity about Azzam's case had damaged his chances and he compared it to an earlier incident in which the Egyptian authorities discreetly set free two suspected Israeli spies.

"With the last one [Azzam] there is definite proof according to the investigation done by the court. So that's why we could not release him," he said.

"The first two were released before going through the media. When the media declared about Azzam, we were in a position not to leave him and he should defend himself. If he is innocent, he is going to be released without any problem," he added.

Netanyahu stood to Mubarak's

side but did not comment on the espionage case throughout the news conference.

Two of Azzam's supporters accompanied Netanyahu to Cairo to plead his case. They said they visited Azzam in prison yesterday and that he was being treated well.

Assad Assad, an adviser to Netanyahu and a former member of the Knesset, told reporters he discussed Azzam's case with Mubarak's senior political adviser Osama Baz.

"I found Azzam in good shape. Egyptian prison authorities are treating him well. I have faith in the Egyptian justice and judiciary," Assad said.

COMMENT

She'ar Yashuv helicopter crash: A month later

By HERS KEBON

The regularly scheduled television programming on the night of February 4 was interrupted by a news flash that always signals disaster: two helicopters crashed over She'ar Yashuv. The dimensions of the tragedy, 73 dead, shocked the nation, left us stunned in our tracks. Our regularly scheduled lives were interrupted, put on hold.

A national day of mourning followed, and with it the broadcasting of the endless list of names. Then came the gut-wrenching stories of the lives lost, and then came the funerals. The nation stood as one - unified in pain, together in grief.

For a day... maybe half a week. But it didn't take long for the unity that the tragedy engendered to be plowed under by the rock-slide that is the Bar-On Affair. It didn't take long for the unity to be drowned out by the noise surrounding Har Homa. How quickly everything returns to normal.

Today marks 30 days since the helicopter disaster. The 30-day, halachically prescribed mourning period - the *shloshim* - varies for each family, since this period is counted from the day of interment, not from the day of death.

The next few days will, for the families, be a time of trips to the cemeteries, of looking at pictures - if that is not too painful. It will be a time for the families to relive that awful night which, in their minds, will forever be the moment against which all else will be measured. There will be before, and there will be after.

For the rest of us the helicopter disaster will be stored somewhere in our memory, as yet another of those awful tragedies that, with cruel regularity, plague the land. It will be stored - perhaps near the top of the list, due to its magnitude - with the bus bombings, the roadside bombs in Lebanon, the victims

of other IDF accidents. When we think of it we will be beset by sadness - so we will try not to think about it.

This nation's resiliency, its uncanny ability to bounce back, is both a strength and - to a certain extent - a weakness. A strength, because only incredible resiliency could enable the survival of a nation so well acquainted with tragedy. A weakness, because only in times of tragedy do we remember what unites, what is important.

It is not uncommon to use man as a metaphor for the nation. A death in the family always puts things into perspective, into proper proportion. For a family it generally takes a while for the magnitude of the loss to diminish, for life to return to normal. Thus does Judaism set aside a 30-day mourning period for an immediate relative, a 12-month mourning period for a parent.

The nation, our nation, speeds things along. Not a year was needed to digest the loss of February 4, and to move on. Not even 30 days. To a certain extent, not even a week. Everything quickly returned to normal.

Is this necessary? I guess so, if we are to function as a normal country.

Is it heartless? To a certain extent.

We have turned into a nation of *parshiot* - of episodes, affairs, and incidents. The rhythm of our public life is marked by jumping from one parasha to the next: from the Hebron redeployment, to the helicopter accident, to the Bar-On Affair. Events follow one another in such rapid succession that we have no time to digest the significance and ramifications of one, before we are hit by another.

The helicopter tragedy, when it struck, drowned out the Bar-On Affair for about a week. But then the Bar-On Affair bounced back. The same will not be true of the helicopter tragedy. It is gone. We spent our time on that particular parasha, and have moved on. We muttered the words, performed the gestures, and then moved on. We always move on.

Turbowicz says no to Bezeq

By JUDY SEGEL

Attorney Yoram Turbowicz, prevented by a Justice Ministry-appointed committee from becoming Bezeq's director-general on March 1, last night shocked Communications Minister Limor Livnat by saying she would have to find someone else for the job.

Livnat, who had nominated the former director of the Antitrust Authority for the Bezeq post, was very distressed by Turbowicz's decision and tried to dissuade him, but with no success.

She will appear today at Bezeq's board of directors meeting, where officials are expected to speak angrily against the "cooling off" committee, chaired by Jerusalem District Court Judge Yehudit Tsir, which ruled that Turbowicz would have to wait a year before taking the job.

The board will name an acting director-general; Livnat's choice was not known last night.

She told Turbowicz that his declining of the Bezeq position was a "loss to the company and to the entire public service, which deserves and needs the best."

The 38-year-old lawyer faxed Livnat a letter saying he was disappointed about the committee's decision, but nevertheless "respected it."

Livnat had intended to take the case, in an unprecedented action, to the High Court or ask for a repeat hearing of the cooling-off committee.

But Turbowicz does not want to appeal.

Swiss president proposes second 'humanitarian' fund

BERN - Swiss President Arnold Koller yesterday proposed creating a second "humanitarian" fund that would use millions of francs in income from Swiss official gold reserves to aid victims of human rights abuses, catastrophes and the Holocaust.

The "Swiss Foundation for Solidarity" would be set up next year, in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Swiss Constitution, Koller told a special joint session of parliament.

Christoph Blocher, an industrialist and member of Parliament, immediately rejected the idea, saying the council "has lost its head."

Israel, however, hailed the plan.

"Any action taken by the Swiss government in the direction of dealing with these issues in order to try and correct injustices of the past is certainly welcome," said Moshe Fogel, head of the Government Press Office.

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, a leader in the campaign for Swiss restitution, said, "This is without doubt a far-reaching decision."

Abraham Foxman, the head of the Anti-Defamation League, said the Swiss move now puts pressure on the other nations neutral during the war - Sweden, Spain, Turkey and Portugal - to come to terms with their wartime

roles. The foundation, which would benefit individuals in Switzerland and abroad, would be financed using the profits of the Swiss National Bank's extensive gold reserves. The recipients would be victims of poverty and catastrophes, of genocide and human rights violations, including Holocaust victims, Koller said.

Needy Holocaust victims will also be the beneficiaries of a separate fund, now valued at SF 100 million, that was established last month by the three leading Swiss banks. There had been calls for the Swiss government to contribute to that fund. However, Blocher has publicly opposed using any taxpayer money for any "compensation" program, arguing that Switzerland need not "apologize" for its war-era activities.

The Koller fund would require Parliament's approval, but no funding from the federal budget. In neither case was it clear what the specific criteria for eligibility for the funds might entail.

Hans Meyer, chairman of the Swiss National Bank, said Koller's plan was based on revaluing the country's gold reserves, which by law are fixed at an outdated price of SF 4,595 per kilogram.

With the current market value more than three times that much, the Swiss could gradually sell off



Swiss President Arnold Koller speaks at a joint session of parliament in Bern yesterday, when he announced the establishment of a humanitarian fund.

(Reuters)

part of the gold and invest the proceeds for the foundation, Meyer said.

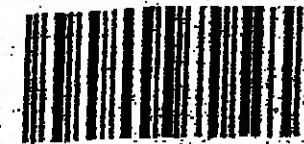
Even though the Swiss intend to take 10 years to sell off the gold to avoid any impact on the price, the world's gold markets reacted with concern to Koller's announcement. The price of gold dropped about \$4 an ounce to about \$354 by late afternoon.

The Swiss franc would still be completely backed by gold and retain its value in world money markets, Meyer said, adding that it would probably take two years before the foundation could

begin operating.

David Harris adds: "Creating this fund is an act of goodwill for people of any race," said Knesset Jewish property restitution subcommittee chairman Avraham Herschson (Likud). "Any initiative like this is to be welcomed."

"But let me say this as clearly as possible: nothing can hide the accounts that were opened by Jews in Swiss banks, and we're calling for the revelation of all these accounts, no matter whether they set up this fund or any other."



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NEWS

in brief

Zo Artzenu activist arrested

Police arrested Shmuel Sackett, a Zo Artzenu activist, at his home in Karmei Shomron early yesterday morning, and confiscated documents and tapes from the home of Binyamin Ze'ev Kahane's home at Kfar Tapuah.

According to Kahane's neighbor, Lenny Goldberg, police were searching for material connected with the weekly leaflet *Derech Shel Torah*, which Kahane and Sackett distribute to synagogues throughout the country.

Kahane, who was not home at the time of the 6 a.m. police raid, said the police had a search warrant. "Police have been harassing me for almost two years," he said. Radio reports said yesterday that police were searching for seditious material connected with the leaflet.

Margot Dudkevitch

Two killed in motorcycle accidents

Sagi Damari, 17, of Beersheba, was killed early yesterday morning when the motorcycle he was driving swerved and collided head-on with an oncoming van in Beersheba, police said. In Holon, pedestrian Paulina Koroniuk, 69, of Holon, was struck and killed by a motorcycle as she was crossing the street. The motorcyclist was slightly injured.

Itim

Israeli Arabs call for halt to Har Homa

Israeli Arab leaders called on the government yesterday to rescind the decision to construct Jewish homes on Har Homa and to stop what they described as ongoing excavations beneath the Temple Mount.

The call was made during a visit to the two sites yesterday by members of the monitoring committee, composed of Arab MKs and the forum of Arab Council Heads.

"This decision can only cause a deterioration in the peace process, as well as in relations between the two nations," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the Arab Council Heads forum.

David Rudge

Poll: Mordechai leads Netanyahu by 25%

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has the confidence of 77 percent of Jewish adults, compared to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu with 52%, according to a poll taken last week by Modi'in Ezrahi on behalf of the Steinmetz Center of Tel Aviv University. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi had a confidence rating of 42%. A similar poll in August 1996 rated Netanyahu at 64%.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Arafat tells congressmen of assassination attempt

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat told members of Congress late Tuesday that there was an assassination attempt against him in Gaza last week.

According to a congressman who attended the meeting, Arafat said one of his aides, who was also at the event in the Capitol, nearly became a victim too. Arafat motioned to him and the two nodded, the congressman said. Arafat did not provide details on the alleged assassination attempt.

Asked about Arafat's claim, a senior US official said: "I haven't seen anything on that at all. I have not been aware that there have been any focused attempts on him."

During Tuesday's meeting with 25 members of the House of Representatives, Arafat said he was willing to have Americans and Europeans inspect cargo entering a Palestinian seaport to assure that contraband weapons do not enter the territory under his control, which is a major concern of Israel's.

According to New Jersey

Congressman Steve Rothman, Arafat said he would welcome Congress' assistance in obtaining sophisticated weapon-detecting equipment for use at the port. He also asked for Congress' help in obtaining a forensic laboratory, which he told the members the Palestinians do not possess.

Another participant said Arafat criticized Arab countries, particularly those in the Gulf, for not fulfilling their financial pledges to the Palestinians.

"He was not being at all indirect about it. He said: 'We're not getting the help we need,'" the source said.

Meanwhile, Arafat told Security Council members yesterday that Israel was harming the Middle East peace process by planning to build at Har Homa.

He was speaking to reporters after conferring privately with the members of the 15-nation council a few hours before the start of a council debate on Har Homa.

Arafat also met with Jewish leaders yesterday, then left New York to deliver similar messages to two former US presidents — Jimmy Carter in Georgia and George Bush in Texas.

PA offices served closure notices

By ELI WOHLGELER and news agencies

Four Palestinian offices in eastern Jerusalem were served notice by the government last night that they had 96 hours to close their doors.

The notices were served after Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani met with police and security officials at around 6 p.m. last night to discuss the procedure. This followed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's decision on Tuesday to close the offices.

The US criticized the move last night, saying the decision to shut down the offices was "very difficult to understand."

"As the president and the secretary of state have both said, this is a time when it is very important that the [Middle East] parties take steps that will build confidence between them," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "It is therefore very difficult to understand why the Israeli government made such a decision at this time when there is a very difficult relationship with the Palestinians."

The timing of the closure notices seemed aimed to coincide with tomorrow's deadline on the next stage of IDF troop pullback from rural areas of the West Bank as well as the start of talks on a permanent peace settlement that are scheduled to begin March 15.

Under the Oslo accords, the PA only may operate in self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and has no jurisdiction in eastern Jerusalem.

Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki, head of Jerusalem police, said that the notices given to the Palestinian Authority offices "is a request for them to close by themselves. If they don't, we'll do it according to the law, as we have done in other offices in eastern Jerusalem. They'll have 96 hours, and we will check it at the end of the time period, and then we'll make a decision."

The four offices involved were identified by Arabic newspapers as the Palestinian Mapping Office, the Palestinian Small Businesses Project, the Institute for the Wounded and the National Islamic Committee Confronting Settlements.

Palestinian officials charged yesterday that the decision to close the Palestinian offices is

designed to raise tensions and sabotage the peace process.

Netanyahu's senior advisor, David Bar-Ilan, said Israel intended to meet tomorrow's pullback deadline, but first demanded "reciprocity" from the PLO.

"It is impossible for the peace process to continue, for the redeployment [and] other obligations which Israel has to continue without the closing of these offices," he said.

Faisal Hussein, the senior Palestinian official in Jerusalem, called the order to close down the PA offices in Jerusalem a deliberate provocation.

"Although we see that these Israeli measures will cause an explosion, we are trying to save matters by contacting the Israelis and other countries to prevent this [from] happening," he said yesterday.

"I don't want to hear from the Israelis that they did not know what will happen, like they did after the tunnel," he said. "They know, they are certain and they are planning and are heading in that direction consciously and with their full will."

Saeed Erekat, the chief Palestinian peace negotiator, said that the four offices targeted

for closure had no ties to the PA. He accused Netanyahu of trying to sabotage final status talks before they get off the ground.

PA Information Minister Yasser Abed-Rabbo accused Israel of acting in bad faith, including intending to withdraw only from a very small part of the West Bank this week.

Bar-Ilan said the government would decide today on the range of the pullback. "Once the decision is made, the implementation... will not take more than 48 hours. We will be living up to the deadline of the seventh of March," he said.

Meanwhile, the PA has called for Palestinians to protest the planned construction at Har Homa by marching to Jerusalem and praying at Al-Aksa tomorrow.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, after meeting with Jordan's King Hussein on Tuesday night, said: "According to the European Union, east Jerusalem is not under the jurisdiction of Israel."

"Israel must prevent the acceptance of decisions which are liable to harm the relationship of trust that is the basis of the peace process."

Hillel Kuttler contributed to this report



Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir (left) and former chief rabbi Avraham Shapira meet yesterday in Jerusalem.

(Isaac Harari)

Hammer to meet with NRP over redeployment

By LIAT COLLINS and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer is to convene the National Religious Party faction this morning. He said yesterday that if there is no need to withdraw from Area C territories (which are under Palestinian civil control and Israeli security control), this should not be done.

"In principle, we don't see this as being the right thing. If there is no clear commitment to it in Oslo, there is no reason to start the first redeployment in Area C," Hammer said in a radio interview from Paris. He cut short his visit in France to be present for today's cabinet meeting.

Third Way faction chairman Yehuda Harel, on the other hand, wrote Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu a letter of support yesterday for trying to further the peace process "and the separation between the Palestinians and Israel." His faction, meanwhile, sent the pre-

mier a detailed map marking the areas it says should remain under Israeli control after the permanent arrangements.

The faction said it would not agree to redeployment from these territories — particularly the Jordan Valley, the Ein Gedi region, the Judean Desert, or the northern Hebron hills — which it says are essential for security reasons. It also demanded no concessions be made in the Greater Jerusalem area and along major roads.

Members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza are to meet with Netanyahu this afternoon in a last-minute effort to convince him not to agree to withdraw from Area C.

The meeting with Netanyahu will culminate particularly intensive lobbying by the council during the past week. It is to be attended by council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein, director Aharon Domb, Ze'ev Hevel, director of Amara, responsible for setting up and main-

taining settlements, Shaul Mizrahi, the mayor of Givat Ze'ev, and Benny Kashriel, the council's deputy chairman and mayor of Ma'aleh Adumim.

The aim of the meeting, said Yehiel Leiter, head of the council's foreign desk, "is to press our position that, according to the Oslo agreement, we are under no obligation to withdraw from Area C, and to minimize as much as possible withdrawal from area B, where at least we will still have military control."

According to Leiter, the intensive lobbying appears to have paid off to some extent. "You have Yisrael Ba'aluya saying they won't vote until they have a complete picture or details of all three stages, and the Third Way says the same."

A meeting yesterday between former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and former chief rabbi Avraham Shapira was not initiated by the council, says Leiter, but by former chairman Yehuda Harel, who represents a minority wishing to take an anti-Netanyahu stand.

Likud's Eitan calls for national unity government

By LIAT COLLINS

Coalition faction chairman Michael Eitan yesterday called for a national unity government and said the current coalition is on the verge of collapse.

Eitan made the statement in an unusual press conference with parliamentary reporters after a series of coalition defeats in the Knesset. The last straw for Eitan was the defeat of the preliminary reading of an amendment to the Israel Electric Company Law that MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz) had proposed, but had government support.

Eitan is demanding that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meet with coalition faction heads on Sunday to try to solve the problems he faces in the Knesset.

"I'm the coalition chairman without a coalition to chair," Eitan said. "I can't continue to accept responsibility under these circumstances."

He detailed the many failures the coalition had sustained in plenum votes in recent weeks and complained that bills in which the Left is interested can pass with an 80 MK majority vote while those that the ruling coalition wants have to struggle to get through.

"I have no doubt that if there were a national unity government, Har Homa would have passed by 80 votes," he said.

The events surrounding the bill on the electric company franchise — which Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon described as "an embarrassing spectacle" — only served to increase Eitan's feeling that the coalition is not functioning. The debate itself grew so unruly that Tichon ordered a 10-minute break

for tempers to cool down.

Many coalition MKs claimed that the IEC workers and management placed pressure on the Labor government to renew the franchise for 10 years in the last Knesset. Former finance minister Avraham Shohat said bonds had been issued on the basis of a 10-year franchise and the period could not now be cut. Labor MKs turned out in full to stop Rubinstein's amendment passing.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, responsible for energy, said he also opposed the bill, despite the official support of the government. Eitan, as coalition chairman, mobilized enough coal-

ition MKs for the bill to pass and argued with those who refused to support it, claiming they were violating coalition discipline.

Towards the end of the debate, Eitan suggested postponing the vote to a later date. Such a request requires a vote to unanimously support it. Eitan asked the coalition MKs who objected to the bill to at least agree to put off the vote on it. Sharon, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Finance Minister Dan Meridor all agreed, but Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi suddenly opposed the delay. At this point Eitan told Hanegbi: "There is no more coalition. The coalition has disintegrated."

Meretz: Opposition not voting in Knesset

By LIAT COLLINS

The opposition is failing to make the most of Knesset votes, Meretz faction chairman Haim Oron told Labor faction chairman Ra'an Cohen in a letter yesterday.

The letter, claiming the Labor Party MKs were not turning up in sufficient numbers to get bills passed, was sent on a day in which the coalition suffered such a series of defeats that coalition chairman Michael Eitan threatened to resign and claimed the coalition was no longer functioning.

"We should pay attention to the coalition's disintegration and inability to concentrate its forces," Oron wrote. "I'm convinced that today if we were only organized properly we could determine almost the entire Knesset plenum agenda."

He listed a number of votes yesterday in which only a small number of Labor MKs, and sometimes only one, were present. Oron said the opposition should not be content with just filing no-confidence motions but should launch a concentrated attack on the government by consistently raising far-reaching private members bills.

BACKGROUND

Only one office affiliated with the PA

By JON IMMANUEL

None of the eastern Jerusalem offices ordered closed by the government have been mentioned in connection with PA activities in the past, except for the Geographic Research and Information Center.

According to the east Jerusalem daily, *Al Quds*, the other three offices are the office for micro-projects, the prisoners' club, and the Islamic Committee for struggle against settlements.

The geographic office, headed by Khalil Tufakji, is located in Faisal Hussein's Arab Studies Society next to Orient House. However, "I have not been ordered closed," Tufakji said last night.

Tufakji draws up maps showing planned settlements and roads. He has worked with Palestinian negotiators, but he is not a PA official. His mapping office, like Orient House, began functioning in Jerusalem long before the Oslo agreements.

The office of micro-projects in Wadi Joz is a non-governmental organization, according to several Palestinian sources, and is concerned with financing small businesses and community centers.

The prisoners' club and Islamic committee say they represent what their names imply. The prisoners' club, which by its name is close to Fatah, has a Bethlehem-based representative on a PA subcommittee dealing with the release of prisoners. In the past it has received PLO financial aid, which may now come from the PA. But dozens of institutions have received aid channeled through the PLO, now the PA, including Mokassab Hospital.

The issue of expelling agents of Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub is even more unclear. Most of the agents are Fatah activists who live in Jerusalem with Israeli residence permits. They are not infiltrated from outside the city, but are basically loyal to the PA.

However, according to outgoing Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit, "the activity of Jibril Rajoub [in Jerusalem] is virtually in the past tense."

But he defended the government's action. "We must remember it is a matter of symbolism. There is a war of attrition by the PA which tries from time to time to find a small opening in east Jerusalem."

ISRAEL BONDS

mourns the death of

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Gideon Patt Susan Welkers-Volchok
President International Campaign Chairmen

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MAURICE RINBERG

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Shiva at 82 Rambam Street, Ra'anana.

Mourning by his whole family

Emunah Jerusalem
extends condolences to
Sam Sebba
on the loss of his dear wife

BELLA

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We extend heartfelt condolences
to our dear friend and patron
Mr. Sam Sebba and Family
on the loss of his beloved wife

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הכרזת תשנ"ז

Policeman dies of injuries from riot

By DAVID RUDGE

Chief Supt. Effi Keinan, the police officer who was critically injured after being struck by a car during riots in Jisr e-Zarka village near Hadera on Sunday night, died at Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday.

Keinan, 37, head of the Haifa police district's intelligence unit, is survived by his wife, Leah, and three children. He will be buried at 11:30 a.m. today in the police section of Haifa's Neveh David Cemetery.

"Today I feel a bit foolish and naive. For so many years he was in danger and I didn't sense it," Leah Keinan said yesterday. "I had a feeling that small things would happen to him... but I never felt that something [this] had would happen to him. He radiated so much strength, security, and ability that he convinced us all."

The announcement of his death cast a pall over the Haifa district police headquarters. His coworkers described him as a man of principles, a very conscientious and diligent colleague who would be sorely missed.

Supt. Shlomit Minkovski, spokesman for the district, said Keinan would not normally have been called out, but that night he was the duty officer and went to the scene to supervise operations aimed at restoring calm in the village.

Minkovski said the violence erupted when a group of residents attacked outsiders who had come to the village apparently to do business with local drug dealers. Stones, bottles, and other objects were thrown at the outsiders, several cars were damaged, and people were injured as the rioting spread. When police arrived, they became targets.

Reinforcements were called and

police used tear gas to quell the rioting. The situation was almost under control when Keinan was struck by the car.

"One of the residents got into his car and drove toward where all the police were concentrated," Minkovski said. One policeman almost was run down by the car before it swerved and headed towards Keinan and Supt. Yitzhak Sadeh.

"The other officer managed to jump clear, but not Effi, who was hit by the car and dragged for several meters," Minkovski said.

The driver, Mohammed Hamis A'amash, 23, was arrested and later remanded by Hadera Magistrate's Court on suspicion of attempted murder. He now may be charged with murder.

A'amash has denied deliberately driving at the officers, claiming he had tear gas in his eyes and because of that lost control of the car.



MDA president Prof. Shlomi Antebbe (left) and Palestinian Red Crescent Society president Dr. Fathi Arafat discuss ways their organizations can help one another, at a meeting at Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

MDA and Red Crescent discuss cooperation

By JUDY SEGEL

Magen David Adom will help the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) train medics and ambulance drivers, while the PRCS will work for MDA's recognition by the International Red Cross (IRC) and its becoming a full member rather than just an observer.

These matters were discussed yesterday in the first official meeting between MDA president Prof. Shlomi Antebbe and PRCS president Dr. Fathi Arafat at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem. Arafat, the brother of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, also gladly accepted Antebbe's invitation to visit MDA headquarters in Tel Aviv.

The two physicians — both of them pediatricians and the youngest of the seven children in their families — found they have a lot in common during the two hours they discussed — "in a very warm atmosphere" — how to strengthen links between their humanitarian organizations.

Antebbe said Arafat asked for assistance in organizing the studies at the PRCS's new school for emergency medical technicians (including medics, blood collectors and ambulance drivers) in El Bireh; another one is due to open in Gaza. The MDA president said his organization has much experience and Arabic-language training materials for high-level courses.

Until now, the Civil Administration has facil-

itated courses at MDA for Palestinians, but now the Palestinians are setting up their own facilities, and ambulance drivers are urgently needed, Antebbe added.

The two will meet again soon in Tunisia at an assembly of IRC Mediterranean countries and further discuss plans for MDA to become a full-fledged member of the international first aid and rescue organization. Antebbe explained that while political opposition has prevented this so far, the peace process has broken down opposition among Arab countries, and that even before the Oslo process began, Arafat told the IRC that MDA should be accepted.

Arafat said he would like to cooperate fully with MDA in the fields in which it has expertise.

Panel blames lax procedures for foreign worker influx

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A disregard of administrative procedures by the former head of the Employment Service led to the "uncontrolled influx" of foreign workers, a committee appointed by Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai said in a report issued yesterday.

Former service director-general Alex Faran acted to change procedures when he was in office until the end of 1966, concentrating all authority in his hands without any form of checks and balances, the report said.

Faran said he was supported and encouraged to be personally involved in the issuing of permits by former labor and social affairs minister Ora Namir, the report said.

Faran also did not adequately monitor the granting of permits, and did not computerize the registry of foreign laborers, it added. Permits were granted to some 105,000 foreign workers by the end of 1966, compared to 13,000 at the beginning of 1994, the report said.

Instead of internal committees deciding on permits for foreign laborers according to sector, Faran formed committees with the participation of interested parties, whose dominance resulted in the issuing of 85 percent of the permits to the construction and agriculture sectors.

In the building sector, the Contractors Association became involved in the issuing of up to 70,000 work permits in 1966, while the Moshav Movement acted to obtain as many as 17,000 permits.

"In this way, the Employment Service transferred its authority to others who had special interests," the report said.

Yishai adopted the conclusions and recommendations of the committee, which was headed by ministry deputy director-general Eli Paz and included other ministry officials.



Future world champions?

Ten-year-olds Eli Tinkelman (left) and Yelena Tchatchko get ready to compete in the Third International Ballroom Dancing Competition to be held in Ashdod March 13-14. Six couples from the 135 pairs from 11 countries competing will reach the finals of each category (Latin, European, mixed). The couple winning the Latin crown in the 16-35-year-old group will represent Israel at the European championship in Germany in June. (Photo: Ronit Kaye)

Education Ministry chief: No preference for haredim

By LIAT COLLINS

Not a single shekel for additional classroom construction in the haredi sector has been allocated at the expense of other Education Ministry projects, ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Dell said yesterday.

Responding to accusations that such classrooms are allotted according to coalition deals, Dell said the budgets for their construction had been transferred to the ministry as a supplement approved by the Treasury and the Knesset Finance Committee.

Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) had denounced press reports that haredi MKs allocate classrooms according to coalition agreements, but he also criticized Dell for reportedly admitting this was the case.

Ravitz said that, according to the system determined this year, classrooms are built according to need. "The local authorities make their recommendations to the development authority and the authority determines its priorities according to principles of equality," he said.

AT THE KNESSET

Bill would expand memorial day

BY LIAT COLLINS

A bill to broaden Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars to include terror victims passed its first reading yesterday. Proposed by Hanan Porat (National Religious Party), it passed 37 to nine with two abstentions.

The bill would allow relatives of terror victims to take the day off work for memorial services, just as the families of fallen soldiers can.

Porat said he proposed the bill at the suggestion of terror victims' families, who felt hurt they had no national day on which to remember their loved ones.

"Ambulance chasing" bill passes first reading

A bill to bar commercial interests from bothering bereaved families in the first hours of their loss passed preliminary reading yesterday. Under the bill, those who know of a death because of their work — such as hospital or ambulance staff, police, or burial societies — would not be allowed to pass on the name of relatives to commercial enterprises. The mail boxes of bereaved families are commonly flooded with fliers for stone masons and other such services just after they learn of their loss.

Labor submits no-confidence motion

The Labor faction has filed a motion of no-confidence in the prime minister over what it calls "his incitement against and attacks on the democratic regime" made at the Likud convention Sunday. "There is no precedent for an Israeli prime minister inciting against the rule of law," said faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen. "The Labor faction has no confidence in the great demagogue and speaker Binyamin Netanyahu."

Voting abroad in first year only

Israelis abroad would only be able to vote in national elections that take place the first year they are out of the country, under a bill proposed by Roman Bronfman (Yisrael Ba'Aliya), which passed preliminary reading 30 to 13 yesterday. It was presented to counter the bill being promoted by MK Ruby Rivlin (Likud) to allow emigrants the right to vote. Bronfman said his bill would allow tourists and temporary visitors to vote, but not expatriates.

Bill would ban promoting sex services

A bill which would ban the advertisement of sexual services passed preliminary reading by 11 votes to three yesterday. Hanan

Porat proposed the bill, which is supported by the government. Avraham Porat (Shinui) opposed it, saying the ban would lead to illegal advertising in public places instead, such as the sort of announcements seen in London telephone booths. Porat has submitted a bill to regulate prostitution by banning it from public and residential areas.

TV license fee may be outlawed

By a vote of 14 to nine, the Knesset passed preliminary reading of a bill by Benny Elon (Moleket) which would abolish the Broadcasting Authority license fee. The authority should be able to fund its programs through commercials and other outside financing for cultural programs, Elon said.

'Same language' bill passes first reading

Public bodies would be obliged to reply to citizens in the same language they used, according to a bill which passed preliminary reading yesterday. Proposed by Yisrael Ba'aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman, the bill did not have government support. The bill refers only to inquiries or requests made in Hebrew, English, Arabic, Russian, and Amharic.

New body set up to help scam victims

By ESTHER HECHT

Hundreds of immigrants from the CIS who lost their life's savings when they tried to transfer them here have found support in a new public committee.

The committee, comprised of professionals, academics and Knesset members, held its first meeting on Tuesday to discuss ways to persuade the government to resolve the immigrants' plight.

The immigrants lost thousands of dollars each when they tried to transfer money through companies to which aliyah counselors referred them. Many of the counselors operated in conjunction with the Liaison Bureau, which is under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office.

Last week Ha'aretz reported yet another set of victims of a money-transfer scheme, this one in Siberia. It was run by Shmuel Azarch, today an adviser to the prime minister on immigration and absorption.

A public committee is necessary because "there are so many agencies that deal with immigrants, yet no one is really dealing with our problem," said Vera Gutkina, spokeswoman for more than 500 victims from Russia.

The police are not investigating, though more than 90 complaints have been filed, because the former attorney-general and the State Attorney's Office instructed them not to investigate, a police

spokesman said.

On December 30, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu raised the immigrants' hopes when he appointed a committee, headed by the justice minister and including the finance and absorption ministers, to examine their problem and present its recommendations within 30 days. More than a month after the set date, the committee has yet to present its recommendations.

Both the Russian and the Ukrainian groups have filed civil

suits against the companies involved and their heads, the Jewish Agency and the State of Israel. But legal action could drag on for years.

MK Naomi Blumenthal, head of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee, has submitted a private member's bill calling for the establishment of a committee to determine compensation, to be paid by the state, for all immigrants from the CIS who lost money in similar schemes.

Burg: 1.2 million potential immigrants still in CIS

By ARYEN DEAN COHEN

Jewish Agency emissaries in the CIS are "knocking on the doors of Jews there, and not waiting for them to knock on ours," according to Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg.

Burg told the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee on Tuesday that there are some 1.2 million potential olim in the CIS. That number includes 700,000 families in which both husband and wife are Jewish, Burg said, adding that the solidification of the governments in Russia and the rest of the CIS requires new organization by the agency.

Sixty percent to 70% of the agency's Aliyah Department budget goes to the periphery in the CIS, since there is a greater chance to convince Jews there to immigrate, and at a smaller cost, he said.

Committee chairwoman MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) said that despite the fact that the governments in the CIS had become more stable, there is no guarantee that the Iron Curtain will not be lowered again, and Jews forbidden to leave. For that reason, she said, these Jews should be considered Jews in distress.

BIBI: STOP THE BUILDING ON HAR HOMA

The building on Har Homa threatens the continuity of the peace process, and further damages the fabric of coexistence in Jerusalem. Unilateral decisions are not the way to achieve either peace or security.

Join in a demonstration near Har Homa to oppose the construction

Saturday evening March 8, 6:30 p.m. Parking lot, Liberty Bell Park

PEACE
NOW

Albanian army attacks rebels

News agencies

VIENNA — Troops went into action to put down an armed uprising in southern Albania yesterday but faced stiff resistance and in one skirmish appeared to be forced to retreat.

Tanks and fighter planes joined the operation, launched under a state of emergency imposed to end unrest which began with street protests by investors fleeing by pyramid investment schemes but which now threatens to ignite full-scale civil war.

The US State Department accused Albanian authorities of intimidating opposition politicians and restricting press freedoms.

Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said he did not know whether a Voice of America interview he gave for Albanian listeners was heard because, he said, the lines have been cut.

"It's incumbent upon the Albanian government...to allow international broadcast stations like VOA to broadcast freely and in an unfettered way into Albania," he said. "We also think it's a great mistake to suspend the rights of journalists, foreign or domestic, in Albania itself." He said the United States is trying to fashion a common position on Albania by working with the Italian and Greek governments and others in Europe.

"I think our advice would be: Restore democracy, restore democratic rights to the opposition,

restore rights to the journalists who are now being intimidated," Burns said.

He said the United States is not considering a cut in the \$1.27 billion U.S. aid program for Albania, rejecting a call by the *New York Times* for a suspension of aid as "counter-productive."

The money is not directed to the Albanian government but to building democracy in Albania, including development of the rule of law and a free market economy, he said.

The West began diplomatic efforts to calm the chaos in Europe's poorest country but critics said the outside world might again be doing too little too late to prevent bloodshed in the Balkans.

The Albanian army retreated after a clash with armed insurgents near the village of Styari, 10 km east of the port of Sarande, which left four villagers and at least two soldiers wounded, witnesses said.

"Eyewitnesses just told us that the battle is over and the troops withdrew," Dimitris Stefanos, an expert in the southern port of Sarande, said by telephone.

"The fighting lasted about 40 minutes and at least two soldiers were wounded," he said. "The people won. The army, about 60 soldiers, got into their trucks and drove away," a Greek journalist at the scene said.

Rebels drove a tank captured from the army gleefully through the streets of Sarande. Hundreds of heavily armed men set up a

defence line in the hills at the entrance to the town, saying they were determined to fight to the finish.

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said yesterday he had been told by his Albanian counterpart Tritan Shehu that the situation in the southern towns of Vlore, Sarande and Delvine was "out of control". Rebels had captured three armored vehicles, he added.

Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok said the European Union was sending his country's foreign minister to Albania tomorrow for emergency talks.

A Council of Europe delegation arrived in Tirana yesterday but a mission from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe seemed to be facing a delay. "The Albanians said they don't know whether this is the right time," a Western diplomatic source said.

"Our main concern now is to get the government and the opposition talking and to make sure that the trouble does not spill over into other areas of the Balkans which are already unsettled," another Western source said.

At least three people were injured yesterday when a bomb went off in Pristina, the capital of the Kosovo region.

Two adults and three children were rescued from a small boat by an Italian frigate in the Adriatic yesterday after they fled the port of Vlore, Italian coastguards said.



German police use a water cannon to stop anti-nuclear protesters from blocking a road.

German protesters clash with police over nuclear waste

By CLAUD-PETER TIEMANN

DANNENBERG, Germany (AP) — Police broke up a sit-in by anti-nuclear activists and battled protesters throwing firebombs yesterday while clearing the way for the last leg of a nuclear waste transport.

Dogged by thousands of protesters along the route, the six flatbed trucks reached their destination, a storage site at Gorleben, by mid-afternoon after a 20-km trip from the Dannenberg train station.

Hundreds of police in riot gear secured the convoy on both sides as it rumbled through the countryside. Officers charged into fields wielding batons and used water cannon to keep away protesters, who threw stones and bottles and set straw on fire along the route.

After a 4-hour trip, the convoy rolled through the heavy steel gates of the Gorleben complex to a chorus of whistles from protesters, backed by police into trees lining the final stretch of road. Police helicopters whirled overhead.

"Is this democracy?" one protester's sign said.

Earlier, police used water cannon to disperse some 6,000 demonstrators who had staged a sit-in at the station to try to block the

transport. Activists said at least 46 demonstrators were injured, including two who were taken to hospital by helicopter.

Police confirmed some demonstrators were injured, but had no immediate details.

After leaving the train station hours late, the trucks stopped every few meters as police cleared away protesters, some of whom threw bottles at the waste containers.

A protester jumped onto one of the trucks from a steel cable suspended from trees, but police swiftly pulled him off.

Protesters set straw on fire along the convoy's route and hurled stones at police in Quickborn, a town between Dannenberg and Gorleben in a usually tranquil, rural part of northern Germany.

Police ran into fields wielding batons and used water cannon to drive protesters from the route.

Schoolchildren in Dannenberg and Gorleben were allowed to take yesterday off because of traffic disruptions. Some apparently were out protesting, a school district spokesman said.

Nearly 300 protesters have been arrested since a train carrying the wastes arrived early Tuesday.

Six police officers were hurt during

overnight clashes with some 500 militant protesters firing slingshots, Molotov cocktails, steel nuts and fireworks on the road to Gorleben.

In Quickborn, a police car was set ablaze but the fire was extinguished with a water cannon. Thirty-three people were arrested in the Quickborn area during the night.

At the Dannenberg station, police unsuccessfully ordered the demonstrators to move shortly after midnight. Then, officers began hauling them one-by-one beyond a police line. Later they sprayed water at the protesters, who responded with a chorus of jeers.

Many of the protesters withstood the drenching by covering themselves with sheets of plastic. Others returned to the sit-in after changing their clothes.

It has been the biggest — and costliest — security operation in postwar Germany, with 30,000 police officers deployed to protect the shipment and to keep protesters from blocking it.

Dannenberg is about 100 km southeast of Hamburg in northern Germany. The nuclear waste from German power plants had been reprocessed in France and then returned under an agreement requiring its storage in Germany, which has no reprocessing plant.

Microsoft finds solution to Internet Explorer bug

SEATTLE (AP) — Microsoft Corp. said it has come up with a fix to a flaw in its Internet Explorer browser which could allow a Web site operator to secretly run programs or ruin files in someone else's personal computer.

A software patch to correct the problem is immediately available free to users at Microsoft's World Wide Web site, the company said yesterday.

"This update is an immediate response to ensure that Microsoft customers continue to have a safe Internet experience with Microsoft Internet Explorer," the company said in a news release.

Though Microsoft said it had no reports from customers of security breaches, company officials said the flaw was a serious problem because it potentially could allow an electronic attacker to bypass the browser's security system.

Microsoft, which made the problem public after it was discovered late last week by a university student, immediately assigned a team of programmers to come up with a fix, said Paul Balle, a product manager for Microsoft's Internet Explorer team.

Balle said late Monday that Microsoft hoped to have a fix posted to the company's site on the World Wide Web within hours, but company officials later backed off that time frame.

Programmers worked around the clock and came up with a fix late Tuesday night that Internet Explorer users could download from the web site.

Internet Explorer is used by millions of people worldwide to access the Web. The program, which has been offered free by Microsoft, is the company's key Internet product and is designed to work with a

wide variety of Microsoft's business and consumer software programs.

Microsoft estimates it has a 25 percent to 30 percent share of the browser market, behind Netscape Communications Corp.'s Navigator program.

Officials at Netscape, Microsoft's bitter rival, said their product did not have the security flaw.

Balle said the flaw is found only on Internet Explorer versions 3.0 and 3.01 for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0 operating systems. It does not affect users of Internet Explorer 3.0 or 3.0a for Windows 3.1 or Internet Explorer for Apple Macintosh versions 2.1, 3.0 or 3.0a.

The flaw involves basic functions found within Microsoft's Windows operating systems.

When a PC user clicks on a hyperlink on a Web page, Balle explained, a Web page creator could have that link connect to a file known as a "shortcut" in Windows 95 and NT. Shortcuts are widely used to start computer programs or functions.

If the "webmaster" for the Web page can guess the precise location and code needed on the user's computer, shortcuts could surreptitiously select and start programs on the user's hard drive.

Many widely available programs such as Windows 95 have standard locations or addresses where their components are stored on computers. Unless a PC user custom-installed or otherwise modified a program, the addresses could be simple to guess.

The news didn't really affect Microsoft's stock, which closed down 37.5 cents at \$99.125 a share on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Rival Koreas begin talks

NEW YORK (AP) — With smiles and small talk, officials from the United States, North and South Korea began meetings yesterday that US mediators hope will lead to peace on the Korean peninsula, one of the last flash points from the Cold War.

Delegations from the three governments gathered in a New York hotel room to hear US and South Korea proposals for talks that would also include China aimed at a peace treaty formally ending the Korean War.

An armistice ended the fighting in Korea in 1953 but created an uneasy truce along the heavily armed border between communist North Korea and capitalist South Korea. No formal peace treaty was ever signed.

The three delegations sat at a round table. Although Wednesday's agenda was modest, the meeting was significant because it marks the first time in 25 years that delegations from two Koreas have sat in the same room to talk peace.

"We need to hear what they say before we respond," North Korea's chief delegate, Deputy Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, said as he brushed past hordes of South Korean reporters and TV crews.

North Korea will also hold talks with the United States tomorrow. Those talks will include the search for remains of American soldiers missing in the Korean War, the opening liaison offices in one another's capital and other issues.

At the urging of the chief US del-

egate, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman, the three delegation leaders posed for photographers smiling and clasping their hands together before the closed-door talks.

Despite the often hostile relations between the two Koreas, a US official said "they were very pleasant with one another."

South Korea's delegation was led by Assistant Foreign Minister Song Young-shik.

North Korea's participation in talks with the South Koreans represents a major concession by the reclusive, Communist government. For years, the North Koreans sought direct talks with the United States excluding South Korea, which the Communists routinely denounce as a US puppet state.

Canada may try Taiwanese sailors for killing stowaways

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (Reuters) — A judge will decide today if there is enough evidence to try six Taiwanese sailors accused of killing three Romanian stowaways at sea in what has become an international diplomatic tussle.

If Nova Scotia Supreme Court Justice Michael MacDonald finds there is sufficient evidence for a trial, Canadian Justice Minister Allan Rock must then decide whether to extradite the men to Romania.

Romania and Taiwan are wrangling for control of the Taiwanese officers' fate. China, claiming sovereignty over Taiwan, argues that it has jurisdiction over the seamen.

Cheng Shou, 34, captain of the merchant ship involved, the *Maersk Dubai*, has denied any wrongdoing by him or his officers.

The accused officers declined comment to reporters, but their translator, Huey-Jean Yang, said the men "feel like chess pieces being played in an international power struggle." The tangled tale

began last May when eight Filipino crewmen deserted the container ship *Maersk Dubai* in this port city on Canada's Atlantic coast.

The distraught crewmen told Canadian port authorities that the ship's Taiwanese officers had ordered two Romanian stowaways onto a makeshift raft off the Spanish coast in March. The Filipinos said another Romanian discovered on the ship during a separate voyage in May was also forced overboard in the mid-Atlantic.

A fourth Romanian, Nicolae Pasca, survived with the help of the Filipinos, who said they hid him in the bowels of the ship, bringing him food and clothing.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police stormed the ship, arrested the officers and charged them with first-degree murder on behalf of Romania.

The Filipinos' testimony painted a harrowing, but inconsistent picture of stowaways murdered to avoid paying Canadian fines for harboring illegal immigrants.

Lebanon to charge Red Army suspects

BEIRUT (Reuters) — Japanese officials got their first glimpse yesterday of suspected Red Army terrorists detained in Beirut but were not allowed to interrogate them, Lebanon's Prosecutor-General Adnan Addoum said.

Lebanese sources said the five suspects would be charged today with offences against Lebanese laws carrying up to three years jail — dashing Tokyo's hopes of quickly extraditing the alleged terrorists to face trial for international offences.

They would be charged by Beirut with possessing and using forged passports, forging Lebanese immigration stamps, entering Lebanon illegally and illegal residence in the country, judicial sources said.

Three other Japanese citizens detained with the Red Army suspects would be released today because their passports were in order, the sources said.

They identified the three as Sei Harada, Moroshima Takayuki and Shamoto Yushiyuki.

Lebanon has not yet confirmed the identity of the five suspected terrorists who will be charged. An official announcement had been expected yesterday but Addoum told reporters in late afternoon it had been delayed until today.

He said Japan had provided documents identifying five of the detainees as Red Army terrorists Kozo Okamoto, 49, Masao Adachi, 57, Mariko Yamamoto, 56, Kazuo Tohira, 44 and Haruo Wako, 48.

However, Lebanon still had to

match the evidence with the suspects, he said.

The Red Army, founded in 1971, is allied to hardline anti-Israeli Palestinian factions and carried out the infamous Lod airport massacre. All five suspects are on the international wanted list on various charges.

Addoum said Japanese embassy and security officials met all eight detainees for half an hour yesterday for the first time since they were arrested on February 15.

The meetings took place at the Beirut law courts under tight restrictions imposed by Lebanese authorities.

The restrictions gave the meetings the character of consular visits rather than interrogations of suspects, but Addoum said some of the interviewers were Japanese security officials.

Four meetings took place simultaneously in separate rooms, with a single Japanese official interviewing two detainees in each room in the presence of a Lebanese judge, Addoum said.

The conversations were in English with the judge listening. The Japanese officials asked the detainees if they wanted to send messages home to their families in Japan but some of the detainees refused even to give their names, Addoum said.

Japan originally hoped that Lebanon would quickly deport the suspects to face trial in Japan on international charges, but the case became bogged down in confusion.

No delay for McVeigh

DENVER (AP) — Timothy McVeigh can get a fair trial despite a newspaper story on his purported confession to the Oklahoma City federal building bombing, his lawyers said after they decided not to seek a delay for the trial scheduled to begin on March 31.

The defense team made the decision yesterday, after discussing options with McVeigh, and then meeting with US District Judge Richard Matsch and prosecutors.

"We've talked about it among ourselves, debated it, gone back and forth, and slept on it, as they say, talked to our client and we're comfortable with the decision that's been made," defense attorney Stephen Jones said.

"That's what our client wants and that's what we want and I think that's what everybody wants." Prosecutor Pat Ryan said he did not believe a delay was necessary.

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הכזמן האחרון

An intoxicating sale

By DANIEL ROGOV

When Israel's first wine auction was held 16 months ago, it attracted a crowd whose enthusiasm seemed to know no limits. Tiroche held the sale, which was well organized and dignified. But some buyers seemed intent on bidding with no knowledge of the real value of the wines they were buying.

Others, competing compulsively, behaved more as if they were at a roulette wheel in Las Vegas than at a dignified auction. Bids were so high that many wines sold for four or five times as much as they would have at auctions in London or New York or even in the better wine stores of America and Europe.

Thankfully, behavior at the second auction was more restrained. A perusal of the wines being offered at Tiroche's auction houses indicate that its third auction, to be held on March 14 and 15 in Herzliya Pituah, will be their most serious to date.

Concentrating heavily on the wines of Bordeaux, and with many wines from the splendid years of 1982, 1988, 1989 and 1990, the list of wines from top chateaux such as Latour, Margaux, Mouton Rothschild, Haut Brion, Lafite Rothschild and Cheval Blanc is impressive. There are even several wines from the glorious years of 1945, 1947 and 1961.

Many first-time visitors to wine auctions report that they either spent more money than they had wanted to, or, that once present, they were afraid to bid at all.

Both of these problems can be avoided so long as one firmly decides to adhere to a few guidelines.

Read the catalog carefully as

much in advance of the auction as possible. Marking your catalog before the sale begins is the best way to control the need to buy on impulse.

Be sure to check the price you would normally pay for a particular wine. The best bargains will not be in the wines from the great chateaux but for slightly lesser-known wines.

Consider especially the wines of chateaux such as Beycheville, Lynch Bages, Grand Puy Lacoste and Cos d'Estournel and even those of grand cru classe wines such as those of Evangile, La Gaffeliere, Grand Puy Ducasse, and l'Angelus, all of which frequently produce wines as good as but far less expensive than those of their better-known neighbors.

Because many wines are sold by the case (12 bottles), it may be worthwhile to organize several friends and to bid as a group on the wines you all want.

It is wise to pay special attention to the vintage years of the wines that interest you. Although wines from specific chateaux often rise above the quality of their vintage, the general nature of the vintage year gives a good picture of the minimum value of the wine you will buy.

One warning is in order. Remember that although the auctioneer and the catalog give you whatever information is available, there is no guarantee that older wines (especially those more than 30 years old) will be drinkable. Also keep in mind that if you do not like the wines you buy, you cannot return them.

Additional information and catalogues can be obtained by telephoning Tiroche at (09) 950-9893.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's wines

In what should be one of the great wine auctions of the century, Sotheby's in London will auction composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's collection, on May 21.

Webber - who was recently made a lord - is best known as composer of the music for *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* and *Phantom of the Opera*. He has decided to sell his collection. Sotheby's estimates the sale will bring in more than £2 million.

This is a dream cellar, virtually every bottle a great one. Catalogs and further information available by phoning Sotheby's Tel Aviv office at (03) 522-3822.

D.R.

Vintage years

The following are my evaluations of the vintage years for most of the red Bordeaux wines being offered at the Tiroche auction in Herzliya Pituah on March 14-15.

GREAT YEARS:
1990, '89, '86, '85, '82, '61
EXCELLENT:
1988, '81, '70
VERY GOOD:
1993, '83, '78, '75
GOOD:
1993, '80, '79, '71
ABOVE AVERAGE:
1987
AVERAGE:
1992, '84

D.R.

FLAIR

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

As much as swimwear may look the same, there's always something novel in the fabric, cut, detail and color. The doubting Thomas need only look at the new Gottex and Gideon Oberson collections to be convinced. The collections by Israel's two major swim and beachwear designers are unique.

No designer can completely turn his back on international trends. But interpretations of these trends are the true test of their creative abilities.

As usual, mother-and-daughter team Leah Gottlieb and Judith Gottlieb of Gottex and Gideon Oberson - who now designs under his own label for Kil Yofi - have passed the test with flying colors.

Because Oberson was showing around the pool of Tel Aviv's Dan Hotel, he gave fashion writers only a glimpse, albeit impressive, of his latest output (see photos). Gottex, on the other hand, unveiled its collection in its own elegant factory showroom, affording media representatives the

opportunity to examine each of the garments on the rack, to feel the textures and to trace the subtleties of the designs.

Major global trends in swimwear today are the no-frills athletic look; the lingerie look with underwired bra cups and the flamenco inspiration with a white lace print on a black background.

The individual approaches to these trends by Gottex and Oberson is quite fascinating. In the lingerie look, for instance, Gottex does not confine itself to bra and panties, but also borrows liberally from the corsette.

Oberson, on the other hand, adds large buttons to his bras and panties - a late '90s provocation.

Even more provocative are his sheer maillots which are diaphanous from just below the navel, with embroidered appliques sitting like badges or patch pockets on the breasts.

Another version features an open flower design around the breast with jeweled embroidery over the nipple.

These particular suits were part of Oberson's grand finale. And to prove that they were practical as

well as decorative, all the models dove into the pool and began splashing each other.

Other than buttons, Oberson's main obsession this season is with ribbons, which are featured at the back and sides of maillots and in the back of softly tailored jackets that give a whole new meaning to beachwear coordinates.

Gottex has a lot of halterneck and one-shoulder maillots, scalloped necklines, shirred, draped and wrapped torsos, and a wide variety of cover-ups which include slinky black catsuits, maxi-length lacy coats, mid-length safari coats, plus pants, shorts, skirts, dresses and jackets. Truly magnificent in a tree-bark print is a long, backless dress with a twisted halter neck.

For those with an inclination towards opulence there are some wonderfully exotic gold-embossed prints in different shades of red, and semi-sheer horizontally striped caftans.

The Tahitian floral prints, which are integral to every Gottex collection, come in new arrangements and colors with a particular bias towards frangipani and hibiscus.



CAVEAT EMPTOR!

By RUTHIE BLUM

New Cellcom subscribers, beware of how you read your customer service contract. The table provided listing fees to be paid for installation, subscription and airtime may be somewhat misleading.

The table shows a five-year price forecast as follows:

Year	IF	MSF	Per minute
1	0	0	0.0038
2	0	0	0.1601
3	0	16.01	0.3202
4	0	16.01	0.3202
5	0	16.01	0.3202

IF - Installation fee
MSF - Monthly subscription fee

At the foot of the table there is a note in fine print: "Prices above are quoted in shekels and are correct as of December 27, 1994."

In July 1995, P.D. of Ra'anana

Hidden costs of mobile phones

signed a contract with Cellcom. In September of that year, he received his phone line. Three months later (in January 1995), he received a cell-phone bill for NIS 0.175 per minute of airtime (a fancy way of saying 17 and a half agorot a minute).

"It is incomprehensible," wrote P.D. "that an Israeli company which won a tender... to compete with Motorola, should have a standard contract showing their price list for the first five years... and then increase prices after signing up thousands of subscribers."

Feeling duped and misled, P.D. submitted a letter of complaint to Cellcom - via a lawyer - exactly one year ago. His complaint was acknowledged and responded to promptly, albeit not to P.D.'s satisfaction.

Cellcom's explanation to its dissatisfied customer (and subsequently to me) was that the table listing the rates for the first five years refers to the first five years of the company in business (from the end of 1994 until the end of 1999). It does not refer to the first five years of each individual customer's subscription.

After studying the terms of the license granted to Cellcom by the Ministry of Communications, I believe that there is no bad faith involved here. The table, however, would be much clearer if - rather than specifying the year "number" (i.e., 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) at the top - the actual year (i.e., 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999) were to be listed. Then, there would be no room for consumer confusion regarding the terms of the subscriber service con-

tract. And since the chapters of the license dealing with the standard contract between the company and the subscribers include a segment about "altering" the standard contract, perhaps Cellcom would exhibit its good faith by changing the misleading table.

What P.D. may not realize is that the Communications Ministry keeps a hawk eye on the whole cellular phone industry. Ironically, the idea behind the "close watch" is to enable free-market competition. Just as Cellcom entered the market to compete with Motorola's monopoly, negotiations are currently under way to bring in a third such company to compete.

Nevertheless, ministry supervision regarding the quality of the phone lines and service to customers is

stringent. Cellcom's license requires that an annual report of consumer complaints be submitted to the ministry, which includes: "details of complaints submitted in writing by subscribers... the way in which they were examined and dealt with, and - in cases where [the complaints] were justified - the means by which the [company] corrected the ills..."

It remains to be seen whether P.D.'s gripe will be taken into account - or even considered justified. But, even if nobody does anything for this consumer, in the final analysis, his best weapon will be his "feet." When a third cell-phone company enters the market, all three will be woeing our business. At that time, P.D. and others like him can "march" their business elsewhere.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.



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ELECTRIC MATTRESS - double size, separate plugs, NIS 150; bed, *War of Attrition*, by Henry, NIS 50; *My People*, by Abba Eban, NIS 50. 04-824-2207.
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FISHER PRICE GARAGE - good condition, NIS 90; electric pizza cooker, used only twice, NIS 60. 02-535-5952, NS.
GLASS SERVING PIECES - large fruit bowl, NIS 50; cake stand, NIS 40; quiche and casserole dishes, NIS 40 each. Adina, 02-563-1761, NS.
KEROSENE HEATER - in good working condition, NIS 75. 02-673-4054, NS.
TRIVIAL PURSUIT - Master Game, Genus Edition and Baby Boomer, Silver Screen editions, like new, NIS 200 o.b.o. 02-585-0573, NS.
3 PAIRS MEN'S SNEAKERS - New Balance, slightly used: 850 RB, size 47, NIS 150; 655, 47, NIS 100; 656, 46, NIS 100. 02-570-1016.
LADIES' RAINCOAT - Dainiac, hardly worn, size M, NIS 100. 02-672-2156.
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LASER PRINTER - for university student, bargain price, good condition. 02-585-5930, NS.
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HOOVER UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER - perfect condition only; dryer. 02-581-5921, NS.
BIKE - at least 18-speed, cheap, for yeshiva student. 02-652-2509.
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The right decision

The decision was the correct one. It overturned some precedents, and its timing could certainly have been better. But the decision earlier this week not to allow Yoram Turbowicz, the former head of the government's Antitrust Authority, to take over immediately as Bezeq's managing director, rightly placed public propriety above personal considerations.

By all accounts, Turbowicz is one of Israel's most gifted and deserving young administrators, who served the public impeccably while aggressively guarding against the formation of trusts and monopolies. But making personal exceptions can too easily establish precedents that can be misused in other cases. Given that Israel is seeking to firmly integrate itself into the global economy, now is the time to establish the norms which are vital to a country asking to progress both economically and socially.

The cooling-off period demanded of civil servants is not meant to punish them, but rather to prevent corruption or situations in which conflicts of interest may arise. This is an especially delicate issue when very senior civil servants are involved, such as the director of the Antitrust Authority, whose decisions can have significant effects on the profits earned by private and public corporations.

The most egregious scenario that needs to be guarded against is one in which a senior civil servant, hoping to persuade the private sector to hire him or her to a lucrative position, consciously or subconsciously provides private companies with benefits while still in public office.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat, obviously upset that her preferred candidate for Bezeq's top job has been denied the position, protested that in this case, the job offer came after Turbowicz had already announced his

intention of resigning from the Antitrust Authority. Although this is true, it still ignores the need to establish precedents based on principles.

Livnat and Turbowicz also tried to preempt objections to the new appointment by volunteering that Turbowicz would refrain from personally representing Bezeq before Antitrust Authority deliberations. Although this is commendable, it still leaves room for conflicts of interest. Turbowicz brings to the job intimate knowledge of the workings of the authority, as well as personal connections and an understanding of the sort of considerations that can sway the decisions of the authority's staff. It would take extreme self-discipline for any individual to avoid making use of that information to Bezeq's benefit in any of a number of routine daily decisions.

It has been objected that the Justice Ministry-appointed committee's decision against Turbowicz will dissuade talented individuals from joining the public sector. This is unlikely. The cooling-off period is an issue only for the most senior of civil servants, and it only lasts a year. Turbowicz's salary at Bezeq, NIS 30,000 a month, is considered the lower end of the scale that successful senior civil servants can command in the corporate sector, and there are plenty of people willing to take a year off with that sort of bonus waiting for them at the end.

Critics of the decision also note that, in the past, requests for eliminating the cooling-off period were granted almost perfunctorily. But this does not necessarily mean that the practice should be continued. Israel needs and demands the confidence that its public officials are free of even the suspicion of corruption. A country cannot be run without establishing proper norms. In Israel, this is an idea whose time has come.

Anarchy in Albania

Once again in the Balkans, the European Union has backed a wrong horse in a troubled country and is now scrambling to formulate a cohesive policy out of its former ignorance and blunders. In Albania, the signs of trouble loom for a corrupt and tottering right-wing government have been plain for all to see for months.

Virtually nobody in Europe wanted to see them. Virtually nobody wanted to imagine another Balkan powder keg on the EU's doorstep. In fact, the Europeans were happy to deal with President Sali Berisha and treat him as a model of stability and reform, even without any solid commitment (other than lip service) to the most basic norms expected of any aspiring European democracy.

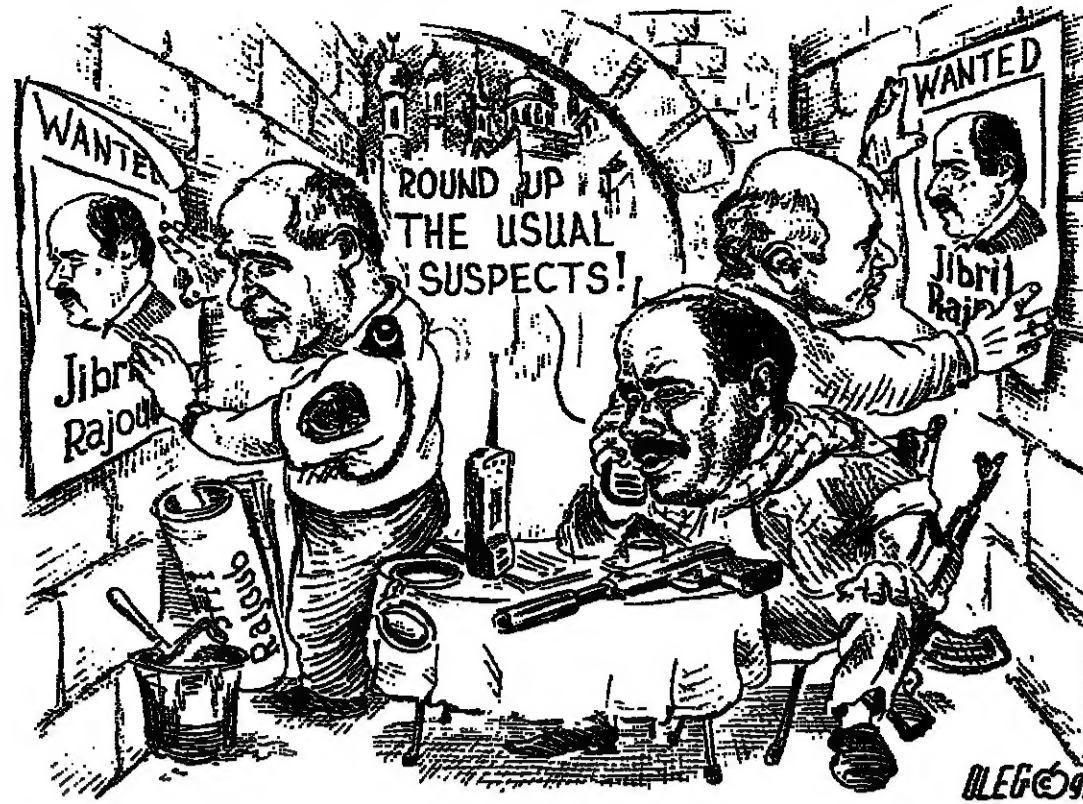
Now Albania is mired in anarchy and plunging toward disaster – not that the wretched country has far to plunge. Its unimaginative president has been handling public anger over failed savings schemes with all the usual bankrupt and repressive clichés of a failing incompetent – attacking the media, blaming imaginary "criminals" and "foreign interference," before finally sending the army against his own citizens.

Israelis will feel particular sympathy for the suffering of the Albanians. It will be recalled that the Moslem Albanians did not allow a single Jew to be killed during the Nazi occupation; indeed, the fierce mountain tribesmen made it a blood-code of honor that Albanian and refugee Jews be sheltered and protected.

US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns was as disappointing as any European yesterday, when he ruled out stopping \$27 million in American aid to Tirana as "unproductive." He did say the government should "restore democracy, restore democratic rights to the opposition, restore rights to the journalists who are being intimidated." These are not admonitions the likes of Berisha ever heed unless they are delivered with a big stick – or at least with the immediate withdrawal of some juicy carrots.

Albania's European neighbors, prodded by the alarmed Italians and Greeks, now have woken up to the possibility of a flood of refugees. Yet they knew May's elections, boycotted by the Albanian opposition, were a sham, and recognized as such in a damning report by observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. There was extensive election fraud, vote rigging, and intimidation, rounded off by repressive police action which drew some foreign condemnation but little real attention.

Berisha has lost control of the south of the country to armed and angry citizens and is resorting to even more repressive measures. The only correct measure left for him is to quit immediately. The correct role of the European governments is to make that crystal clear, and that the Albanian opposition should be brought into an interim government to restore calm and pave the way for proper elections.



A spinner of stories

Stunned and outraged senior Likud members are pulling out their hair in frustration over their stage-manipulated committee meeting on Sunday.

We would like to remind them of Baron Friedrich von Munchhausen, the 18th-century storyteller.

The baron once related that he found himself sinking in a quagmire. So, he said, he ordered the hair on his head to grow – fast. His arms then grabbed his hair, by now a meter long, and he thus hauled himself to safety.

This proverbial narrator of false or ridiculously exaggerated tales seems to have a worthy successor in our prime minister.

A week ago, as a result of heavy pressure from Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and other cabinet members, Binyamin Netanyahu finally decided to allow the building of Jewish housing on Har Homa. At the same time he gave the go-ahead for key Highway No. 45 running from Ben Shimon through the northern Jerusalem suburb of Givat Ze'ev, and on eastward to the settlement of Mishor Adumim in the Judean desert.

An unexpected rider to the decision: The construction of some 2,600 units for Jews on Har Homa would be balanced by 3,500 new units for Arabs in the Jerusalem area.

The prime minister then made a statistical mistake. He said that 78 percent of the Greater Jerusalem populace was Jewish, and the rest Arab. Perhaps he wanted to allay fears of a threat to the Jews' majority status in the area by more Arab housing being constructed there. In fact, the correct figure is 68 percent Jews.

That more Arab housing than Jewish was to be built sounded like yet more appeasement of Arafat, putting into question Netanyahu's constantly-repeated refrain that Jerusalem would always have a Jewish majority.

Last Sunday the bulldozers stood ready to begin work on the highway. One bulldozer team was to start at Ben Shimon, another in the opposite direction from Givat Ze'ev.

But suddenly, inexplicably, the work was halted for a full week – i.e. until this coming Monday.

Although no explanation was given, the reasons for the delay were clear. Netanyahu was planning to visit President Mubarak in Cairo, and Mubarak was not to be upset.

But not upsetting Hosni Mubarak is a mission impossible. Israelis from the entire political spectrum – even President Weizman – have traveled to Cairo to serenade Mubarak, hoping to get him to fall in love with the Jewish state.

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

But nothing will quieten Egypt's official hate campaign toward Israel. If Netanyahu thinks that delaying the bulldozers for a few days will get Mubarak to embrace him like some long-lost cousin, he and his advisers are living in cloud-cuckoo-land.

After further pressure from ministers who suspected that

The premier's talent for fantasy is shocking to those who understand what is at stake

Netanyahu was making every effort to stall on his many promises about starting building, possibly hoping that they would die of inertia, the premier finally agreed to let the road building start today.

Everything is ready. By tonight, we will know whether work is under way, or whether the premier has dithered again.

Building houses is far more complex than building roads. After building authorization was granted for Har Homa, Housing Ministry surveys prepared to set off for the site to expedite their preliminary work before foundations were laid.

Suddenly, however, Netanyahu gave orders that the planning experts could take a few days off. Again, why the delay? Said the prime minister's spokesman, "It's merely a question of a few days. There are bureaucratic and legal formalities."

Declared the prime minister in ringing and reassuring tones: "We will overcome the difficulties."

What these difficulties were, however, he didn't explain. There is still no definite date fixed for work to begin at Har Homa.

THERE is only one feasible explanation for this procrastination.

Most of the delays occurred before the controversial Likud central committee meeting. Netanyahu's promises about starting work immediately on the road and on Har Homa were just wool pulled over the eyes of the Likud faithful, to persuade them that the prime minister could not only talk tough, but act decisively too.

Netanyahu's hour-long speech at the meeting, aimed at both the committee and TV viewers watching the 8 p.m. news, centered on his building decisions. The delays over putting those decisions into effect came only afterwards.

During his speech, Netanyahu promised a bonus for Israelis who travel frequently between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv: Not only would they benefit from the new, fast road; a railway line would also be built alongside it, ensuring that the distance between the two cities could be covered in 22 minutes.

Was that a cynical chuckle from the Hanover grave of Baron Munchhausen, in recognition of a fellow-master of the art of weaving tall tales?

As entertainment goes, it's great. But when the future of Jerusalem is at stake, this kind of play-acting hovers on the brink of irresponsibility.

The warnings of dangerous times ahead are, in any event, there for all to see.

In the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee earlier this week, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai admitted that he had no idea of the exact number of weapons being accumulated in Arafat's armories. Mordechai added cautiously that there were unverified reports of anti-tank weapons in Palestinian hands, but no real evidence that he knew of.

Top intelligence specialists are convinced that on his return from the tumultuous reception accorded him by President Clinton and the US media, Yasser Arafat will threaten – and launch – violence against IDF soldiers and civilians unless Netanyahu gives him everything he wants. Har Homa and Highway 45 are flashpoints.

What Israel needs in these perilous times isn't the spellbinding imagination of a Munchhausen. It's the strength and determination of a Samson.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israel Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

POSTSCRIPT

THIS LOOKS like a must-see video now on the market in the US, but maybe you have to be Jewish to really enjoy it.

SHVITZ! My Yiddisheh Workout advertises itself as "the world's only Yiddish exercise video." It's promotional material asks, as you would expect: "Why sleep to the gym?"

The English-subtitled program is 30 minutes of simple exercise led by "famous actors of the Yiddish stage and screen." As a nice touch, the accompanying music on the video is Klezmer.

For more information – don't nag us! – call in the US 800-922-2558, ext. 285, or via e-mail at book@circle.com

Joshua Shuman

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



That's Marilyn Monroe in a rather unfamiliar role: as a porn star. Proof of Marilyn's sordid past surfaced in Spain at a film festival. The grainy, six-minute black-and-white film, made in 1947, showed the Hollywood legend at the age of 21, bare-breasted and engaging in explicit sex acts. (Reuters)

Point made

MARK ROSENBLUM

Prime Minister Netanyahu's rocky tenure has been a series of moves and feints in many directions. The Har Homa affair is the latest example of his indecision about where and how he wants to lead his nation.

Last fall's Hasmonaean Tunnel fiasco brought needless bloodshed and almost scuttled what was left of the peace process. The tunnel was said by many to be a wake-up call. Netanyahu was summoned to Washington and treated as an equal to the unpopular Arafat, and denied the star treatment his predecessors had become accustomed to.

Chastened by the strong and timely intervention of President Clinton and King Hussein, the prime minister began the Hebron negotiations in earnest, only to encounter a newly emboldened Arafat who sensed the isolation of the Netanyahu government, and sought to exploit the new opportunity.

Signing the Hebron agreement, with the overwhelming support of the Likud and the Knesset, seemed to move Netanyahu temporarily back to the pragmatic center of Israeli politics.

Then, when the right wing began calling for a compensatory gesture in return for Israel's signing the Hebron accord, Netanyahu responded by committing his government to build a new Jewish neighborhood on Har Homa.

This time, to his credit, there was no middle-of-the-night construction. Instead, the prime minister discussed the matter with US, Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian leaders, making clear his continued commitment to the peace process, and to building housing for Palestinians.

Leaving aside the wisdom of the Har Homa decision, the threats of some Palestinian leaders to turn the episode into another violent confrontation are even more dangerous.

When Palestinian leaders call building at Har Homa "a declaration of war" and warn that "there will be an explosion," they do a grave disservice to the cause of reconciliation we share. Such threats will not and should not be permitted to determine Israeli policy.

Yet neither should the Israeli government turn a blind eye to the inherent dangers of sending bulldozers into Har Homa.

The cabinet decision to authorize building 2,600 housing units at Har Homa, within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries and on land confiscated primarily from Jews, may be perfectly legal and within Israel's rights under the Oslo accords. But that does not make it wise policy.

WHAT is in question is not the legal right to build new neighborhoods, but the political wisdom of doing so. The promise to construct separate but equal Palestinian housing evokes great skepticism. The Har Homa project might have more credibility if Israeli government promises made over the last 29 years to build such housing had materialized. If the prime minister feels compelled to build at Har Homa, he must build for both Jews and Palestinians.

Netanyahu was able to bring his coalition partners into line to support the Hebron agreement. Paying off his restless Right is dangerous and unnecessary given strong Israeli support for the peace process. After all, the Right has no place to go, except to bring down the government of which they are a part and return Labor to power.

Even when Netanyahu was wrong in his ill-fated selection of Roni Bar-On as attorney general, he was able to prevail against the long odds in his cabinet. The prime minister cannot hide behind pressure from his coalition partners to justify such a wrong-headed decision as Har Homa.

Now that he and his government have asserted their full legal right to build on Har Homa and established that the government needs no foreign permission to act, the prime minister should take a Solomonic step.

The point has been made. There is no need to risk derailing the peace train once again.

A politically astute move would be for Netanyahu to shelve the building of Har Homa indefinitely, and expedite negotiating and implementing peace with the Palestinians.

The writer is political director of Americans for Peace Now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEACE WITH THE GOLAN

Sir, – In 1979, then-prime minister Begin made the regretful mistake when he gave all of Sinai to Egypt, and dismantled Yamit. This, together with the loss of hundreds of our soldiers in his war in Lebanon, may have caused his retreat from public life.

I fail to understand why Abba Eban (Letters, February 28) wants us to repeat that error by giving the Golan Heights to Syria. Syria launched two wars against us from this strategically most valuable piece of land, and between wars made life hell for the Jewish settlements below the Heights.

As Eban points out, the Golan has already twice been served on a platter (not his words) to the Syrian dictator, and twice he failed to make use of this opportunity.

Why should Israel make this offer a third time? As long as Israeli forces are on the Golan – from where they could shell Damascus – this frontier remains calm.

AVI TUR

Holon.

PALESTINIAN VIOLATION

Sir, – The Jerusalem Post (February 26 and 27) coverage of the Kfar Hitzim confrontation in which one Arab was killed and two were injured missed the February 26 Palestinian Authority Ministry of Information press release which said the action: "reflects a well-organized terrorist act by the Israelis against the peace process, it also reveals the real terrorist face of the Israeli occupation... The timing of this crime does not come by mere chance, but marks three years since Baruch Goldstein opened fire in al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron killing 29 worshippers... The Ministry of Information warns the Israeli government and its settlers that their crime will not pass quietly and that the Palestinian people has the right to defend itself and its land."

Clearly this is incendiary material which is designed to stimulate acts of terrorism by Palestinians against Israelis in violation of the Oslo Accords.

JOSEPH LERNER

Jerusalem.

FUNDS FOR REFUSENIKS

Sir, – I have just finished reading Chaim Potok's book *The Gates of November*, which is the history of the heroic and valiant struggle of the Slepaks to assert their right as Jews to leave the Soviet Union and emigrate to Israel.

To think that the Slepaks and other prisoners of Zion are now in need and that their plight falls on unhearing ears and uncaring hearts is nothing short of astonishing and shameful.

I propose that a committee be established to solicit, even if it is only one dollar a week, from all the caring Jews around the world who supported these brave people when they were refuseniks.

Let us revive the organization that helped the refuseniks in the Soviet Union and get them to funnel funds to established accounts upon which these people would be able to draw.

JUDITH HIRSCH

Boca Raton, Florida.

NO SECURITY ZONE

Sir, – Ever since Israel retreated to the "security zone" in South Lebanon over 10 years ago, we have been fighting a bloody war of attrition according to guidelines set by the Hizbullah organization and their supporters.

A month ago, the helicopter cat-

astrophe which killed 73 IDF soldiers painfully brought the problem of what to do about Lebanon to the forefront of our national agenda. However, this life and death issue is still dormant because our government, as well as the opposition, is impotent;

devoid of ideas and action.

How long must we wait for a decisive change in policy which will transform an ineffective defense into a productive offense which will lead to peace?

TSVI NOVEMBER

Jerusalem.

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Hot line assists Poles who think they may be Jewish

The phone in the one-room office in a downtown building in Warsaw begins to ring every Thursday just as the sun dips into the soft gray horizon. The anonymous callers have one secret to tell.

They think they may be Jewish.

A generation of Poles is now entering a new age of discovery, facing a puzzle of heritage as they piece together newly opened records with vague childhood memories. Others, listening to dying parents, are shocked by revelations of secret adoptions and well-meant lies.

A few bewildered Catholics who saw their faith as intrinsic to the struggle for a free Poland and to their Polish identity now are questioning who they are and whom they can trust. They seek plain talk from someone who will not recognize them, expose them or judge them.

They call the Jewish Confidence Line.

"What Madeleine Albright found out in America is happening every day here," said Stanislaw Krajewski, head of the Jewish Forum Foundation in Poland, a local organization that switched on the help-line four months ago.

Krajewski estimates that more than 100 people have called with questions about Jewish heritage in the 40 hours that the hot line has been taking calls. Some talk for 20 minutes. Some stay on the phone for hours. A small support group made up of callers has met three times.

"You know, there are hot lines for alcoholics, drug users, people with all kinds of problems. Of course, being Jewish is not a problem. But it is an issue that some people here have difficulty dealing with," Krajewski said.

That point was driven home last Wednesday when the single surviving synagogue in Warsaw was set ablaze by vandals in what Jewish leaders here called Poland's most flagrant act of religious destruction in 30 years. The attack came two days after a bomb threat was telephoned to a Jewish foundation next door.

Aleksander Kwasniewski quickly condemned what he called "an act of barbarity," inconsistent with "Polish culture, tradition of tolerance and respect toward" places of worship.

In a show of solidarity, government ministers, politicians, Protestant and Orthodox bishops and ordinary Poles trooped over to pray Wednesday night in the century-old building, its foyer charred and reeking.

Rabbi Michael Schudrich said later that the fire — which came a week after Parliament voted to restore Jewish property taken during World War II — could cause alarm among "all those people who are discovering their roots."

"Part of their concern is: Is it safe to be Jewish in Poland? This is not the kind of answer we want," he said.

Sentiment about Poland's once-vibrant Jewish minority reflects ambiguity. Antisemitism remains a problem in Poland and a disquieting challenge throughout Eastern Europe's democracies. An estimated 8,000 Jews now live in this country of 38



million. The prewar Jewish community was 3.3 million.

Since the fall of European communism in 1989, Poland's democratic governments have sought to improve ties with the Jewish community and with Israel. Kwasniewski, with his eye on acceptance into Western power circles such as NATO and the European Union, has been quick to denounce antisemitic incidents.

Still, a government poll released in January found nearly 25 percent of Poles surveyed to be strongly antisemitic, 56 percent to be against antisemitism and the remaining 20 percent somewhere in between.

"Antisemitism in Poland is as widespread as it is superficial," said Konstanty Gebert, a Jewish Forum Foundation member and well-known journalist who will launch a Jewish cultural magazine in Warsaw next month.

"Living as a Jew in Poland isn't such a big deal, particularly if you live in the city. The point is: You have to put up with stuff. You can hear some very nice people say hideous things."

It is that kind of understanding, and realism, that callers seek when they dial the hot line. Because the hot line is anonymous and confidential, outsiders are not allowed to listen in.

But counselors, middle-aged Poles who have known of their Jewish roots for years and have been trained to listen and advise, recount these stories from the last few weeks: A middle-aged

woman called to say she just found out her mother was Jewish. So that means she also is Jewish, right? But she doesn't feel Jewish. What does it mean to feel Jewish?

A man said he just found out his father was Jewish.

The man is 35 and a deeply religious Christian. Does he have to change his life? Another

"What Madeleine Albright found out in America is happening every day in Poland."

man, deeply troubled, said his mother told him two secrets on her deathbed. He was not her biological child.

He was, in fact, adopted from a Jewish family killed in the Holocaust.

How, he asked, can he cope with these two life-changing realities, that he is adopted and Jewish?

"Talking is the first step," said one of the volunteers, psychologist Ryszarda Zachariasz. "After that, they think about what they want to do next. Maybe nothing. Maybe they want to find out

more. Different people have different needs."

Callers are guaranteed anonymity to battle an overwhelming fear, counselors said. They are afraid of labels and slurs.

They are afraid of small extremist political groups that, even as mainstream Polish parties condemn antisemitism, remain hostile to minorities.

They are afraid, in this overwhelmingly Catholic nation, of not being Polish as defined by their local priest, or not being Polish enough for politicians such as Solidarity leader Marian Krzaklewski, who, discussing the proposed constitution before Parliament this week, equated Poland's values with Christian values.

They are also afraid to seek out Jewish organizations on their own, Zachariasz said, afraid of the unknown. "It cuts both ways," she said. "They think: Will they accept me? Will I be Jewish enough for them?"

"In Poland, to learn that a member of your family died in concentration camps is not unusual. Many people died. It's almost inconsequential," Zachariasz said. But callers who realize now that their families died for their Jewishness find that it "does mean something," she added.

"For them," she said, "their search for understanding becomes a way to acknowledge, and to let them live on."

(The Washington Post)

Striking at survivors

The government has decided to cut funding for Holocaust survivor groups, Elli Wohlgelemler reports

While the government is negotiating with Switzerland to recover money taken from Jews in the Holocaust, it is simultaneously taking away money to help those who survived.

Last week, the two organizations that deal with Holocaust survivors, the National Israeli Center for Psychosocial Support for Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation (AMCHA) and Keren Artzi, were informed by the Ministry of Finance that its budget allocation for 1997 was being cut back.

The Health Ministry, which also provides funds to the survivor's organizations, has also cut back funding to NIS 100,000 for this year.

Danny Hanoch, a survivor of Auschwitz, Dachau and Mauthausen, is naturally upset. "We are not strong, we are not demonstrating, nobody is paying attention to us because we are not a power. I'm from the youngest [survivors], and I'm already 65."

"This [budget cut] is unfair. What can we do? Only cry for a little bit and that's all. This is a sin and an ugly step by the government," he added.

The government's budgetary allocation to the 300,000 Holocaust survivors who live here has been decreasing. In 1994, the Finance Ministry provided NIS 4 million for the two organizations, of which AMCHA received NIS 400,000; in 1996, it was cut to NIS 1.5 million, with NIS 150,000 going to AMCHA.

"It's obscene," said Jonathan Lemberger, director of AMCHA. "To cut it to zero, or very close to zero, is not only a further embarrassment, but also goes against all the pronouncements of Jewish leaders, from the prime minister on down, who are speaking about the return of Jewish assets, or Jewish property, or Jewish gold, and claiming that the needs of

Holocaust survivors are at the forefront of their mind and should be addressed immediately, and should not wait for commissions and committees and investigations. It's a slap in the face to the survivors."

"Besides the money, it's a moral issue," Lemberger continues. "We feel that the State of Israel, which has the highest number of survivors, should be doing much more than it is already doing, and should at least be supporting the two organizations that deal directly with survivors' needs. These are the only funds in the country that are specifically for survivors. That the Israeli government shouldn't support [us] is ridiculous."

According to Health Ministry spokesman Ephraim Lahav, budgetary considerations have forced the ministry to reassess how they spend their money.

"We prefer to buy services rather than to support voluntary organizations," he said. "At the same time, the ministry is examining its policies regarding funding for these groups."

Motti Sherf, a spokesman for the Finance Ministry, blamed the cuts on Avraham Shohat, the previous finance minister under the Labor government.

Sherf said the ministry is reassessing its priorities, and funding could be restored next year.

But the needs are immediate and as the survivors age their needs can only increase. Lemberger said his caseload, which currently totals about 2,000 people, has been growing 25 to 30 percent a year for the last four years. His organization can't keep up with the demands for services, which he expects to increase from 38,000 service hours in 1996 to 48,000 this year.

While AMCHA provides psychological and social support to survivors and their children,

Keren Artzi was set up as a fund to help provide for the welfare of survivors, helping them obtain eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic devices, dental care and the like. It has helped in over 10,000 cases since it was founded three years ago.

Yitzhak Artzi, chairman of the fund, said of the cutbacks by the government: "It's a scandal, and I'm ashamed that these are the priorities of the Israeli government."

He said that many survivors "received from the Israeli government less than they would have gotten if they had gotten their money from the German government." Of AMCHA's total annual budget of NIS 10.6 million, the government was providing only five percent. The rest, said Lemberger, comes from clients' fees, fundraising abroad and from other countries, including Austria, Germany, Holland, the EU, and from an endowment set up by the former East German.

Switzerland also gave a one-time grant last year to AMCHA for immediate help to survivors, which was separate from the country's current attempts to resolve the litigation over gold and property claims.

So if other countries are giving, asks Lemberger, where is Israel? "We have always said this [money] is ridiculous and not enough. But when you cut that, it undermines the efforts of AMCHA to go to these governments, to the individuals, to the institutions, to the foundations, to try to fund raise for Israeli survivors."

For survivor Danny Hanoch, these budget cuts from the government are especially painful. "There are governments in the world who are providing gratis these kinds of services for first and second generations, like in Holland and Germany. If you are a Holocaust survivor [there] you are entitled to similar services given free by the government. To take away from such an important service given to the Holocaust survivors is a very unfair step. It hurts every one of us."

DEAR RUTHIE

Fallen for best friend's ex-husband

By RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, I have been in love with the ex-husband of a close friend for five years. Let me explain. I first met him through my son who was in school with his son. I was then married, and he was divorced. Since then, I got divorced, and he moved in with a woman. In the meantime, I became close with his ex-wife. At first, I couldn't tell her that he and I had had an affair, but now I feel like a liar when I'm around her. For one thing, she tells me stories about him all of the time... and I listen eagerly. Mostly, these are complaints about his behavior towards her since the divorce regarding money and his visits with the kids. But sometimes they are even more personal — about his having been unfaithful to her when she was pregnant, for example.

Now, I see this man about once a month (when he comes to see his kids); occasionally, we go to bed together. I am crazy about him, but he doesn't know what he wants. Should I continue to keep my relationship with him a secret from my friend? Sometimes I think that the only time I'll have to reveal any of this to her is when (or if) I end up actually having a real relationship with him — one which is public. At other times, though, I feel that I am being very dishonest to a woman whom I genuinely care about. Cornered Confidante Somewhere in Israel Dear CC,

Before deciding whether to reveal your secret, you must examine two different issues. The first is the nature of your relationship with this woman. Since your friendship developed after you became involved with her ex-husband, it may be that some form of curiosity on your part caused you to take an interest in her. Subsequently, after becoming close friends, you continued to listen to stories about the man you are in love with — unbeknownst to the teller of the tales. Ask yourself whether the main reason you spend time with this woman has more to do with her ex-husband than with her company.

The second issue with which to contend is the price you will pay for either choice. If you opt to remain silent, you are likely to continue to feel disloyal to your friend — particularly if the relationship you are having with her ex-husband is an ongoing one (no matter how infrequent). If, on the other hand, you decide to tell her about the affair, she is liable to feel hurt by your previous silence. Such a revelation might end the friendship on the spot.

Finally, if the only reason you are contemplating coming clean is a sense your clandestine affair is about to "go public," then it makes no real difference whether you speak now or wait until later. This is because of one sad but simple little fact: In the event that you end up actually committed to this man (i.e. married to him or living with him) your friendship with his ex-wife is bound to be doomed anyway.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

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Imperious United sweeps Porto aside

MANCHESTER (Reuters) — Manchester United virtually guaranteed themselves a place in the European Cup semifinals for the first time since 1969 when they imperiously crushed Porto 4-0 in the first leg of their quarter-final last night.

United's outstanding performance was highlighted by goals from David May (22nd), Eric Cantona (34th), Ryan Giggs (61st) and Andy Cole (80th) and evoked memories of their greatest victory which came in the 1968 European Cup final against Porto's Portuguese rivals Benfica.

Porto, who had won all three away matches in the Champions' League phase of the competition, were simply overwhelmed for much of the match.

The first goal came when David Beckham's long cross was headed on by Gary Pallister. Goalkeeper Hilario failed to hold the ball and May swept it home from close range.

The outstanding Cantona made it two when he took advantage of a mistake by Aloisio to lash the ball under Hilario's body from 12 metres and Giggs completed the 21-year-old goalkeeper's personal nightmare when he failed to stop a shot from Giggs squeezing past him on his near post.

Cantona was the provider for Cole to score United's fourth.

Cup holders Juventus were held to a 1-1 draw by the Norwegian part-timers of Rosenborg in Trondheim.

The Italian league leaders, badly hit by injuries and looking sluggish



Mr. DEPENDABLE — Manchester United captain Eric Cantona shoots past Porto defender Paulinho Santos to score United's second goal at Old Trafford last night.

in the freezing Norwegian night, were unable to put on a convincing performance as they struggled with a physically powerful Rosenborg who continue to surprise in this

year's competition. In the two other quarter-final first legs, Borussia Dortmund of Germany beat Auxerre of France 3-1. Karlsruhe Riedle (12), Rene

Schneider (54), Andreas Moeller (82) scored for the home team, Auxerre's goal was scored by Sabri Lamouchi (75). Ajax Amsterdam and Atletico

Madrid drew 1-1 in Amsterdam. Patrick Kluyvert equalized for the hosts in the 53rd minute after Juan Esnaider scored for Atletico in the eighth minute.

SPORTS

in brief

Samaranch plans to continue until 2001

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Reuters) — Juan Antonio Samaranch, who has turned the Olympics from a troubled sporting showpiece into a billion-dollar business, wants the most powerful job in the Games movement until 2001.

Samaranch, who turns 77 in July, announced yesterday that he would stand again for re-election as International Olympic Committee (IOC) president later this year and bid for a fourth term in one of the most significant positions in sport.

If he wins, the Spaniard, who has a reputation as a diplomat as well as a shrewd businessman, has the chance to complete 21 years in office after taking over the job in 1980.

But Samaranch, who has a chance to continue at his age only because his Latin allies in the organization managed to force a vote to raise the IOC age limit in 1995, said he would be in charge for the last time at an Olympic Games in Sydney in the year 2000.

Liverpool on course to join elite

BERGEN, Norway (Reuters) — Liverpool continue their campaign to join the elite band of teams to win all three European soccer competitions when they travel to Norwegian outsiders Brann Bergen in the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup today.

The four-times European champions and double UEFA Cup winners hope to join Juventus, Barcelona, Ajax and Bayern Munich in an exclusive club and look to have the ideal draw to progress. The part-timers of Brann have not played a competitive match since October. They have spent the last two months training in warmer areas of Europe, most recently in Spain where they played against Spanish first and second division sides.

Lasorda, Fox, Wells elected to Hall of Fame

TAMPA (Reuters) — Tommy Lasorda, Nellie Fox and Negro League star Willie Wells were elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame yesterday by the Veterans Committee.

The Veterans Committee, a 15-man panel of former players, executives and media members, voted in the colorful former manager of the Dodgers, the gritty Chicago White Sox second baseman and shortstop Wells during its annual meeting.

The 69-year-old Lasorda, who stepped down as manager of the Dodgers due to health reasons last year, compiled a 1599-1439 record in 20 seasons and led Los Angeles to four National League pennants and two World Series titles.

Fox, a standout second baseman who also played for the Philadelphia Athletics and Houston, was named to 10 All-Star teams and totalled 2,663 hits in a 19-year career that ended in 1965.

Monaco takes giant leap toward UEFA Cup semifinals

LONDON (Reuters) — French league leaders Monaco took a giant step towards the semifinals of the UEFA Cup on Tuesday night when they outplayed Newcastle at St James' Park to win 1-0 in a quarter-final first leg tie.

Internazionale, chasing their third UEFA Cup title in seven seasons, also scored a vital away goal at Anderlecht to draw 1-1 after trailing for most of the match.

In the other two quarter-finals Spain's UEFA Cup representatives both lost. Valencia went down 2-0 at Schalke of Germany while Tenerife lost 1-0 to Brondby in the Canary Islands.

Monaco's victory, their fourth in their four away UEFA Cup ties this season, came courtesy of a goal from striker "Sonny" Anderson just before the hour.

Teenager Thierry Henry scampered free on the right, carried the ball to the by-line and cut it back to the Brazilian who lashed a first-time shot past two Newcastle defenders and goalkeeper Shaka Hislop.

Newcastle, missing their injured £23 million strike-force of Alan Shearer and Les Ferdinand as well as suspended Colombian forward Faustino Asprilla, created few real chances to cheer manager Kenny

Ravanelli hat-trick eases 'Boro's woes

LONDON (Reuters) — Fabrizio Ravanelli scored a second-half hat-trick as Middlesbrough put their well-publicised troubles to one side and hammered Derby 6-1 in the English premier league last night.

Ravanelli struck in the 54th, 82nd and 85th minutes as 'Boro claimed their biggest league win of the season.

'Boro remained bottom of the table, however, three points behind Southampton, who clawed their way back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 against Everton at the Dell.

Last night's other results: Chelsea, Blackburn 1; Leicester 1, Aston Villa 6; Nottingham Forest 0, Sheffield Wednesday 3; Southampton 2, Everton 2. Division one: Manchester City 1, Portsmouth 1; Stoke 3, Grimsby 1; West Bromwich 4, Southend 0.

SCOREBOARD

NHL — Tuesday's results: Tampa Bay 6, Islanders 3; New Jersey 3, Pittsburgh 1; Washington 2, Calgary 1; Edmonton 4, Los Angeles 1.

Sonics outscore Magic

SEATTLE (AP) — Anfernee Hardaway, after being held scoreless in the first half, had 26 points in the second half to lead the Orlando Magic to a 101-89 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Rony Seikaly and Gerald Wilkins had 18 points each Tuesday night for the Magic, who improved to 7-1 under new coach Richie Adubato. The loss dropped the Sonics to 22-8 at home, where they lost only three games last season.

The Magic, who had lost to the Sonics in Orlando on Sunday, handed the Pacific Division leaders only their second loss since the All-Star break.

Pacers 98, Celtics 95. In Indianapolis, Mark Jackson's six straight free throws in the final minute helped Indiana beat Boston 98-95.

Reggie Miller had 29 points, Dale Davis added 20 points and 16 rebounds and Jackson had 12 points and 13 assists. Indiana has won four straight games, all at home — and is 4-2 since Jackson was re-acquired from Denver.

After Jackson made two more foul shots, Boston had three seconds to score. But the Celtics fumbled the ball on the inbound pass and Eric Williams' wild shot was way off at the buzzer.

Knicks 93, Bucks 86. In New York, the Knicks had a scare when Patrick Ewing injured his knee, but he returned and New York held off a late charge by Milwaukee to secure a 93-86 win.

March madness hits Maccabi TA

Game 1 of best-of-three Final 16 series against Efes Pilsen tips off at 6 p.m.

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Back in 1992, few could imagine that when Doron Jamchee slipped to the floor instead of getting off a last-second shot which could have given the Israelis a victory over Estudiantes Madrid in the third and decisive game of the quarterfinal series that it would mark the end of Maccabi Tel Aviv's era as a prominent European basketball power.

That era — a 15-year-period during which the blue and yellow won two European titles, went to the championship game five other times and made an additional trip to the Final Four — was followed by a four-year drought.

Tonight in Istanbul against Efes Pilsen, however, Maccabi plays in the championships this late in the season for the first time since that ill-fated 1992 series, intent on continuing the path to reclaiming a spot as an elite club.

Game 2 in the Final 16 matchup will be on Tuesday at Yad Elihu, followed by a return trip to Istanbul next Thursday if a deciding contest is needed.

Back in the golden era, the only time Maccabi faced Turkish teams was as a pushover in the preliminary rounds en route to the final pool.

It has already been a few seasons now since Efes Pilsen emerged on the European scene as a power to be reckoned with. However, the team's success in the Euro League has never translated into more than an appearance in the quarterfinals, and Efes Pilsen is intent on becoming the first Turkish club to reach the Final Four.

The team has certainly shown it is one of Europe's best this season, finishing 12-4 in the final pool and earning one of the four first-place spots.

It has been particularly difficult on its home court, winning all eight contests in Istanbul.

But in 1993/94, its first appearance in the final pool, Efes Pilsen

also finished first in its group but proceeded to lose to Barcelona in the best-of-three quarterfinals, despite the home-court advantage. The following year it just missed out on the quarterfinals and last season did not qualify for the main tournament, although it did capture the lesser Korac Cup with a victory over Stefanel Milan in the final.

The club consolidated its sturdy base during the off season by bringing in CSKA guard Vassilij Karashev, who has become the Turks' main three-point threat at 49.2 percent. His scoring average of 13.6 is second on the team behind the team's most complete player, star point guard Petar Naumoski.

Naumoski is fifth in the Euro League with a 21.3 scoring average, dishes out 4.7 assists and has 2.5 steals a contest.

He is also an outside threat and has an 88% accuracy rate from the free-throw line, where he averages a team-high 6.8 attempts a game (Oded Katash goes to the line the most for Maccabi with only four attempts per contest).

Misrad Turkcan and Ufuk Sarica are two other key players who score in double figures for the Turks.

For Maccabi, everyone is fit, a welcome relief from the injury problems that have hampered consistent play from the Israelis during the final pool.

Maccabi clearly faces a major challenge, as it has not won on the road since defeating Stefanel Milan back in November.

Everyone will have to contribute and players such as Randy White — who has scored an impressive 23 points a game on 36.6% shooting from the field in the last three home contests but only 16 points a game on 37.7% shooting in the past three road games — will have to have a big series in Istanbul if Maccabi hopes to advance.

The game is scheduled to be broadcast live on Channel 1, starting at 6 p.m.

Maccabi Tel Aviv's European statistics

Player	Scoring average	Minutes per game	2-point shooting	3-point shooting	Free throws
Randy White	15.4	30.8	55.5% (91-164)	38.0% (9-25)	86.7% (58-67)
Buck Johnson	14.3	35.3	52.0% (85-163)	15.3% (4-26)	74.0% (67-90)
Misrad Turkcan	11.8	29.3	48.5% (53-107)	46.2% (19-39)	71.8% (28-39)
Oded Katash	10.1	24.8	28.6% (17-59)	37.7% (23-31)	90.8% (23-24)
Nadav Hamelel	7.4	30.2	50.0% (40-79)	50.0% (8-12)	83.3% (24-29)
Brad Liss	7.2	18.2	42.6% (23-47)	46.7% (7-15)	100% (2-2)
Sotko Radovic	5.0	14.1	50.0% (18-36)	23.5% (4-17)	85.7% (17-20)
Derrick Sharp	4.9	17.3	54.5% (12-22)	25.9% (7-27)	88.2% (15-17)
Constantin Popa	3.9	10.9	51.1% (23-45)	0% (0-0)	81.2% (13-16)

Efes Pilsen's European statistics

Player	Scoring average	Minutes per game	2-point shooting	3-point shooting	Free throws
Petar Naumoski	21.3	38.7	56.7% (61-90)	45.9% (50-109)	85.0% (65-100)
Vassilij Karashev	19.8	33.4	50.7% (56-71)	42.2% (25-59)	78.0% (40-52)
Misrad Turkcan	11.7	28.2	48.5% (53-107)	46.2% (19-39)	71.8% (28-39)
Ufuk Sarica	10.6	30.6	45.6% (26-57)	36.4% (32-88)	67.7% (21-31)
Derrick Alston	9.0	23.6	40.0% (22-44)	0% (0-1)	58.8% (10-17)
Tanner Oguz	8.5	23.3	51.9% (44-83)	0% (0-0)	72.7% (18-22)
Mark Pope	5.7	20.2	50.0% (23-46)	38.0% (8-21)	80.0% (12-15)
Huseyin Besok	4.9	13.4	50.0% (22-44)	0% (0-0)	77.4% (24-31)
Murat Evliyoglu	4.9	13.3	56.3% (9-16)	39.5% (15-38)	100% (6-6)
Volkan Aydin	3.7	14.0	52.6% (10-19)	22.2% (6-27)	78.9% (10-13)

Betar's appeal against IFA punishment fails

By DEREK FATTAL

Teddy Stadium is usually a cauldron of noise for Betar Jerusalem's home games. This weekend's National League match against Zefirim Holon will prove an exception that the club will be longing to forget as it will be played behind closed doors.

This follows yesterday's rejection by the IFA's supreme tribunal of the club's appeal against the punishment meted out previously by the IFA's disciplinary court in response to crowd disturbances at the end of last month's game against Hapoel Beersheba.

The appeal court also affirmed the NIS 30,000 fine imposed by the lower tribunal.

At yesterday's hearing, the court made one concession to Betar, modifying the terms of the conditional sentence imposed. The club now risks an additional match being played without spectators. This takes the place of a suspended three-point deduction that stood to

be activated in the event of further disorder by the club's fans this season.

Betar chairman Moshe Dadash made no bones about the appeal result yesterday, saying that the ban on supporters for the Holon game would cost the club around NIS 400,000 in lost revenues, and that this was "totally disproportionate."

Dadash remained adamant that the league leader was doing his best to control a small extremist band of so-called "fans," and said, "It is the job of the police to control crowd unrest. We have given them our full cooperation, and have always obeyed their requirements."

In other news, Israel international center-half Gadi Brumer is set to fly to England early next week for a trial with Manchester United. The Premiership leaders have been interested in Brumer for over a year, and if he impresses might seek to close a deal before the Premier League's March 20th transfer deadline comes into effect.

Athens, Rome, Buenos Aires among 2004 Games favorites

LAUSANNE (Reuters) — Olympic chiefs start drawing up their shortlist of candidates to host the 2004 Olympics today in a decision which is likely to interest stockbrokers, builders and airline chiefs as much as sports fans — especially in favorite cities such as Athens, Rome and Buenos Aires.

The 11 cities hoping to stage the Summer Games will present their bids to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) before officials throw out the weakest on Friday and name the four, or probably five, candidates who will go forward to a vote in September.

Staging an Olympics can have a major effect on a country's economy. As well as the obvious stadiums and sporting facilities, often a whole new infrastructure has to be built.

Sponsorships deals worth millions of dollars are there to be made. Stock and currency markets can move on the decision.

It looks as though the business community of Athens, Rome, Buenos Aires, Cape Town and Stockholm will stay in the running to cash in on the biggest sporting event in the world.

The other candidates — Istanbul, Lille, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Seville and St Petersburg — are likely to leave Lausanne feeling disappointed after spending a great deal of money on promoting their bids.

An IOC delegation led by Germany's former fencing Olympic champion Thomas Bach has visited all the bidding cities in the last six months and produced an evaluation report on their strengths and weaknesses.

The report will play a huge role in the decision of the selection college who have to choose a minimum four candidates but can add a fifth. But politics is just as important.

Rome, Athens and Stockholm are regarded as having the strongest technical bids as far as their facilities and organization are concerned although the Greek city has airport access problems and Stockholm faces some local opposition.

After its rejection in favor of Atlanta for the 1996 Games, Athens has returned with a stronger bid, based less on "historical right" than the ability to provide a high quality event in Europe for the first time in 12 years.

Buenos Aires will probably be tied to satisfy South American interests with Cape Town doing the same for Africa.

Neither continent has previously hosted the Games but South Africa's crime problem is seen as a major disadvantage and Cape Town appears a long shot at this stage.

Istanbul officials seem to have resigned themselves to defeat — earlier this week they condemned the selection procedure as undemocratic.

Eagerly awaiting the outcome are the world's money men.

In December the organizers of the 2000 Games in Sydney announced a list of 17 international and Australian firms who will provide sponsorship worth more than \$392 million.

The day after the IOC evaluation committee's report was published in February, construction shares led an advance on the Athens bourse because it was felt the city would stay in the running.

Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lander

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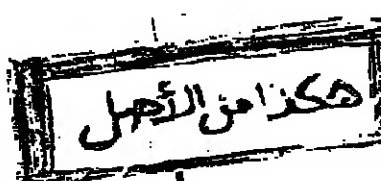
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NEWS

in brief

Murdered Jaffa informant buried

Thousands of Jaffa residents and police officers attended the funeral yesterday of former police informant Solomon Mashrawi, 45, who was shot to death in his car in Jaffa late Tuesday night.

Shortly after his murder, police arrested four Jaffa residents who had argued with Mashrawi earlier that day, but released them yesterday. Police said he had made many enemies in his efforts to rid his Jaffa neighborhood of drugs. In a previous attempt on his life, a grenade was thrown at his home.

Several years ago, Mashrawi spent 18 months in jail on suspicion of murder. He was later released. Numerous police files also were opened against him, but all were closed due to lack of evidence or public interest.

Reserve duty eased for students

University students performing reserve duty will enjoy shorter appeal procedures to be exempted from a call-up, partial funding, tutoring and other benefits, the IDF announced. The changes, decided upon at a meeting yesterday with university heads, are aimed at easing the burden of reserve duty. A list of the benefits, which take effect with the next school year, is to be published soon.

Group calls for Klingberg's release

The Public Committee against Torture in Israel yesterday called on President Ezer Weizman to release on humanitarian grounds Marcus Klingberg, who was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment in the early 1980s for spying for the former Soviet Union.

"If he were younger and healthier, he would be released, in the end, from jail," the group wrote in a letter, noting Klingberg's age and failing health.

Fulbright to honor Rabin

A \$50,000 annual Fulbright Scholarship has been established to honor the memory of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the United States-Israel Education Foundation (USIEF) announced yesterday. The award will enable a distinguished scholar or professional to research and lecture in the US in areas that exemplify Rabin's legacy, according to USIEF director Rene Taft.

Haifa Chemicals workers reject compromise pact

By DAVID RUDGE

The future of the giant Haifa Chemicals factory was once again in doubt yesterday, after the workers committee rejected an agreement reached after marathon talks between management and senior Histadrut officials.

Angry workers at a mass meeting at the plant, which has been closed for nearly five months, accused the Histadrut of selling them out.

They charged that the agreement, aimed at ending the long-running labor dispute, was a complete capitulation to the demands of management.

"I would prefer to be out of work than work under the conditions of this agreement," said one of the employees.

"It means that some of the workers will retire and others will be sacked, without knowing what they will receive in terms of compensation, while those that remain will have to take a tremendous cut in salary," said the worker.

"On top of all of that there is a clause in this agreement which will allow management to cancel it after six months, should it so desire. It's a travesty of justice, and at best a bad joke," he added.

The workers overturned chairs and tables, and two of the employees had to be taken outside to recuperate after being overcome by

their emotions during the meeting. Under the agreement, 60 out of the firm's 500 workers would take early retirement, another 55 would be fired with preferential redundancy payments, and 20 would move onto personal contracts. The remainder would be expected to take salary cuts of up to 17 percent.

Works committee chairman David Raviv ripped up the agreement on the stage in front of the workers, maintaining that it was not what they had been fighting for, while protesters accused the Histadrut officials of being traitors.

Baruch Zaltz, head of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch, vowed that the Histadrut would not sign any agreement with management without the approval of the workers.

A spokesman for management said that despite the works committee's rejection of the accord, they hoped that "common sense would prevail and the agreement would be signed."

Members of the works committee met with Histadrut officials last night in an effort to resolve the points which they want to improve.

If no agreement is achieved, however, there is a possibility that the owner of the company, American-based businessman Aryeh Genger, could decide to close down the plant.

Bar-On investigators plan next moves

BAR-ON

By LIAT COLLINS and Jerusalem Post Staff

Investigators probing the Bar-On Affair held what was supposed to have been a secret meeting last night with the state attorney and her aides at the Nevech Ilan resort outside Jerusalem. The conference, which soon became known to the media, aimed to sum up the progress of the investigation and indicate its next steps.

The team expects to complete questioning those involved by the

middle of next week. One person who may be questioned is Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Knesset Law Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) was questioned yesterday. At the end of the interview, which took place in Yahalom's Knesset office, the investigator said he had answered all questions.

Yahalom told reporters nothing new had been said. "The affair is very serious from the view of good government and any way you look at it, it is a stain on Israeli history," he said.

He repeated that he does not know whether there was any criminal deal involved and said in the past he had only quoted radio

reports — which were denied by other NRP ministers — which said there had been such a deal.

Yahalom said he has no doubt that Shas leader Aryeh Deri had been involved in the appointment of Roni Bar-On, but he "does not know if it was a criminal involvement or just improper behavior."

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was forced to answer a parliamentary question yesterday on whether Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had blessed the appointment of Bar-On, as Hanegbi had implied to the cabinet. The question, posed by MK Nissim Dahan (Shas), received a one word response from the minister: "No."

This week former Supreme

Court justice Tsvi Tal was questioned by the team regarding a Shas claim that he had been their candidate for the post of attorney-general. Tal denied Shas had offered him the position.

Investigators yesterday also questioned *Globe's* reporter Yoav Yitzhak, who published the protocol of the cabinet meeting at which Bar-On was appointed attorney-general. Yitzhak refused to reveal his source for the protocol.

Meanwhile, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that, "According to my gut feeling, there will be no earthquake as a result of the investigation into the Bar-On appointment."

Court rejects petition against police

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition demanding the suspension of the police team investigating the Bar-On Affair on the grounds that they had leaked information.

The court also ordered the petitioner, Kfar Sava lawyer On Neiman, to pay NIS 10,000 in court costs, saying the petition had been an "act of impertinence."

Justices Mishael Cheshin, Tova Strasberg-Cohen and Dalia Dornier repeatedly chided the petitioner for his charges, without mincing their words.

Neiman said it was clear to all that details about the questioning under caution of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu were leaked, and it must have come from the police.

The leak had drastic results: the whole world heard about it via the media, the stock exchange fell and Israel's foreign relations may be affected, he said.

Neiman said he had demanded that the attorney-general open an investigation into the leaks "within 24 hours," like the investigation into the leaks over the cabinet protocol.

"I requested a criminal investigation," which carries a three-year sentence for those found guilty, "and not that he suspend the policemen," Neiman said. "I turned to the High Court only after the attorney-general did not respond within 48 hours."

"Why did you not wait for the attorney-general to act? Are there no other processes other than the High Court? You seem to want to jump over all the hurdles at once," Strasberg-Cohen asked advocate Tsvi Sa'ar, representing Neiman.

Sa'ar: "It was so urgent..."

Strasberg-Cohen: "One gets the impression you want to stop the police investigation [of the Bar-On Affair]."

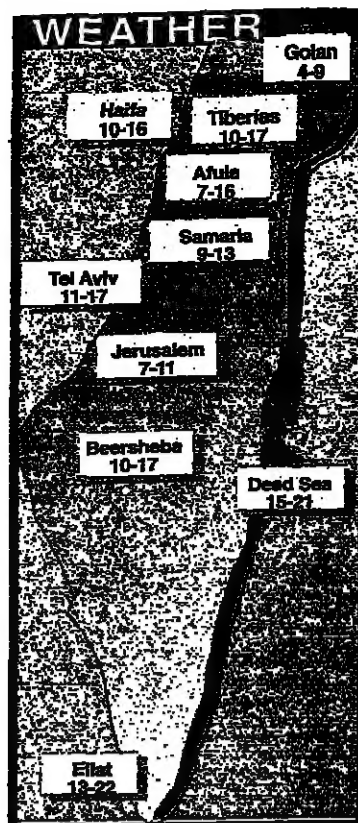
Sa'ar: "The prime minister ordered the investigation so he clearly didn't leak it. We are talking about only three of the 20 police investiga-

tors. This could lead to the fall of the government."

Heshin (losing his patience): "Do you think we don't understand anything?"

In another court case related to the Bar-On Affair, the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday rejected a petition by Channel 2 demanding that the state make public all of the proceedings that led up to the questioning of attorney Dan-Avi Yitzhak, who represented Shas MK Aryeh Deri in his fraud trial.

Judge Dan Arbel said "he could not allow the publication of the procedures that preceded the [questioning] except for the fact that the discussions related in part to the question of whether Avi-Yitzhak should or could give testimony about his discussions with the prime minister or [his director-general] Avigdor Lieberman — which the court had determined did not relate to lawyer-client confidentiality, and therefore Avi-Yitzhak was required to testify about this."



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	PRECIP.
Amsterdam	8	12	54	cloudy
Buenos Aires	15	25	18	clear
Chicago	15	25	18	clear
Copenhagen	10	15	10	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	15	10	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	10	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	10	cloudy
Hong Kong	17	21	70	clear
London	10	15	10	cloudy
Los Angeles	15	25	18	clear
Moscow	10	15	10	cloudy
Montreal	10	15	10	cloudy
New York	10	15	10	cloudy
Paris	10	15	10	cloudy
Rome	10	15	10	cloudy
Stockholm	10	15	10	cloudy
Tokyo	10	15	10	cloudy
Vienna	10	15	10	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	10	cloudy

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's daily Mifal Hapais Chance draw were the ace of spades, nine of hearts, eight of diamonds and seven of clubs.

Hammer asks UN to give legal status to Jewish cultural property

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS — The United Nations' Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) is considering granting international legal status to Jewish cultural property around the world, in order to avoid negligence, destruction or theft.

The idea was brought up by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer during a meeting here with UNESCO Secretary-General Federico Mayor. Hammer, who yesterday ended an unofficial visit to France, asked Mayor to recognize Jewish heritage — synagogues, cemeteries and Judaica — as part of the world's cultural patrimony, so it will benefit from international legal protection and all governments will be obliged to protect Jewish heritage on their soil. Such protection already has been given by UNESCO to Moslem cultural heritage around the world.

Mayor responded very positively to Hammer's proposition, and asked the Israeli government — as the representative of the Jewish people — to prepare an inventory of the patrimony in question.

Hammer told journalists that to prepare such an inventory Israel will need funding from the Diaspora, as well as detailed information about Jewish heritage, mainly in countries where there are no longer Jewish communities. One of the biggest collections of Jewish property is in Prague, where the Nazis concentrated tens of thousands of objects, which were to be exhibited in a Jewish museum once all Jews were exterminated.

This treasure was kept by Czech authorities, who only recently realized the value of the collection. In order to avoid the sale of this treasure, Mayor proposed that Israel and the Czech Republic establish a museum dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust victims.

Both Israel and the Czech Republic are now in the process of negotiating the first proposal of the Prague Synagogue Restoration Committee.

Hammer's proposition was also discussed with the French government, which is also considering granting international legal status to Jewish cultural property.

Hammer's proposition was also discussed with the French government, which is also considering granting international legal status to Jewish cultural property.



Jerusalem happenings

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel (center) makes a point to Jerusalem Foundation chairman and former mayor Teddy Kollek (left) yesterday, at the dedication of the German section of the Wohl Rose Garden opposite the Knesset. (Bryan McBurney)

Weizman sends message to Assad

By BAT SHEVA TSUR and news agencies

President Ezer Weizman yesterday asked visiting French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette to relay an invitation to Syrian President Hafez Assad to return to the negotiating table with Israel.

It is imperative that unconditional talks begin now, otherwise it could be too late, Weizman told de Charette at Beit Hanassi, according to a participant at the meeting. The French minister reportedly heard a similar request from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Monday.

Despite Syrian suspicions of the French, who have traditionally had an influence in Lebanon, de Charette is expected to continue urging Assad to meet with

Netanyahu, in the realization that the Lebanese problem cannot be solved without Syrian intervention. The Syrian vice president and foreign minister were in Paris last week for talks on the subject and maintained a hardline position.

During their hour-long meeting, de Charette listened to Weizman's assessment of the Middle East situation. The French visitor reportedly came out against a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, saying this would simply bring Hizbullah into the area. Both also expressed fears about the negative influence of Iran and Iraq in the region.

Before leaving last night for Damascus, the French foreign minister also held talks with senior Palestinian officials in Jerusalem.

De Charette did not call at Ament House, the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in Jerusalem. Instead, he met Faisal Hussein, the chief Palestinian representative in Jerusalem, at a women's college just next door.

Under the Oslo Accords, Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority can operate only in the autonomous areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but not in Jerusalem.

European Union foreign ministers have decided they will visit Orient House when they are on official visits to Israel; the Netanyahu government has warned that any foreign minister who does so would not be received by Israeli officials.

De Charette appeared to have avoided a confrontation by making his a "working visit" rather than an

official one, which meant that he was not bound by the EU decision. However, his decision to meet with Hussein and other Palestinian officials at the adjacent women's art college of Al Quds University seems to have caused just as much offense.

"Those foreign ministers who wish to meet with Palestinian Authority officials in Jerusalem will not be able to meet with Israeli officials," said David Bar-Ilan, a senior aide to Netanyahu.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, de Charette criticized the government's recent decision to build a new Jewish neighborhood in the capital's Har Homa section. "I think this decision creates difficulties and certainly it is an obstacle to the peace process," de Charette said.

IAF planes raid Hizbullah targets

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region north of the security zone yesterday, following an attack on a South Lebanese Army post in the Jezzine enclave.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Reports from south Lebanon said two warplanes fired at least four missiles at targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region, which is controlled by Hizbullah and is used by the organization as a base for preparing and launching attacks on the zone.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage as

a result of the air raid.

Earlier, Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with light weapons at an SLA outpost in the Jezzine enclave. There were no casualties in the incident.

Also yesterday, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak visited Sec.-Lt. Mordechai Etzion in Haifa's Rambam Hospital where he is recovering from wounds suffered in heavy fighting near the IDF's Dabash position last Friday.

Etzion, the commander of a Merkava tank, was badly wounded during the fighting and the tank's radio operator, Sgt. Lior Shabtai, was killed. The IDF spokesman said yesterday that Etzion's condition had improved and was now described as satisfactory.

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High Court presses A-G to respond to polygraph row

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The High Court of Justice issued a show-cause order yesterday giving the government and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein 10 days to respond to issues raised when the court first heard a petition against Rubinstein's refusal to take a polygraph exam.

In February, when Justices Eliezer Goldberg, Eliahu Mazza and Dalia

Dornier heard the Movement for Quality Government in Israel's petition, they gave the government 10 days to decide between having Rubinstein take the test or eliminating the test as a requirement for all civil servants.

Instead, the government appointed a committee, headed by former justice Dov Levin, to report within 21 days to the commission the government has established to examine the desirability

of using polygraphs in the civil service, the Movement for Quality Government said.

The movement therefore submitted another petition to the High Court, saying this did not meet the court's requirements and asking for a show-cause order obligating the government to do so.

In response, the High Court gave the government and Rubinstein 10 days to

address three issues: justify Rubinstein's membership on the commission examining the use of polygraphs when he has a clear interest in its outcome; why hasn't the government ordered the General Security Service to stop requiring polygraph exams, since its use of them is selective; and why hasn't the government dropped the test in the civil service since it is not applied uniformly.

הכרזת הקבלה